1870 [C.70] **Commission on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture (1867). Third report of the commissioners, with appendix part I. and part II.**

COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

THIRD REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS,

WITH

APPENDIX PART I. AND PART II.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

1. WE, the Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to inquire into the Employment of Children, Young Persons, and Women in Agriculture, "for the purpose "of ascertaining to what extent, and with what modifications, the principles of the "Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of such employment, and especially "with a view to the better education of such children," humbly submit to Your Majesty this Third Report of our Proceedings in execution of Your Majesty's Commission.

2. This Report is confined to Wales.

3. We regret to have lost the services of the Honourable Edward Stanhope as one of our Assistant Commissioners, the duties of the Commission having occupied more of his time than he was able conveniently to give to them. To supply his place we proposed to the Secretary of State to reappoint Mr. Robert Boyle, whose Report on Somersetshire is included in our Second Report. The consent of the Secretary of State having been obtained, Mr. Boyle commenced his duties on the 1st of October 1869.

4. The Assistant Commissioners have presented to us their Reports on the counties assigned to them; namely, the Honourable Edwin B. Portman on the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon; Mr. Norman on the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint; Mr. Culley on the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen; Mr. Henry Tremenheere on Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, and Mr. Boyle on Monmouthshire and Radnorshire.

5. The course of proceeding of all the Assistant Commissioners was, as before, to select, under the best local advice, certain districts in each county that might be considered typical, to make their inquiries as minute as possible in those districts, and to invite opinions and information, by their circulars of inquiry and other means, from the portions of the county exterior to those districts.

6. In considering the question of education in Wales, and the material and social condition of the agricultural labouring class as affecting it, the two leading peculiarities of the Principality have to be borne in mind, the large proportion of the total area occupied by elevated hill and mountain land, and the language.

Area of Wales.

7. Of the total area of 4,734,487 statute acres in Wales, including Monmouthshire, there were in 1868 according to the Agricultural Returns presented to Parliament for that year by the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, of heath and mountain land 2,503,646, or upwards of one half; in "permanent pastures," including the extensive sheep runs on the hills, there were 1,415,327 acres; leaving only 1,888,117 acres under cultivation in corn, green crops, bare for fallow, and grass, under rotation; namely, in corn 547,573, in green crops 128,292, in bare fallow 83,720, and in grass, &c. under rotation 328,232 acres.

Area under cultivation.

Population.

8. According to the census of 1861 the total labouring population of all ages engaged in agriculture, including persons engaged about animals, in the Principality was 187,612, of whom 128,871 were males, and 58,738, or nearly one half, were females.

9. Of males under 20 years of age so employed there were 26,655, and of females 9,451.

Distribution of.

10. The arable land of the vallies, and the tracts of rich loam by the sea, are occupied for the most part in small farms, ranging from under 20 to about 80 acres, farms of a larger size, from 100 to 300 or 400 acres, being comparatively rare. In many instances these farms have sheep-runs on the adjoining hills.

11. On the hills there are extensive sheep-runs, the occupiers being often rather shepherds than farmers; and both on the hills and in the vallies, there is a numerous class of small freeholders cultivating their own lands by the aid of their families.

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12. These freeholds appear to have originated from three causes; 1, in squatters building upon the wastes and taking in small portions of land; 2, in the custom once very prevalent of granting building leases for long terms of years, and leases for lives of unimproved lands; 3, in the sales of Crown lands.

13. The large proportion of the total acreage of the country that is occupied with sheep-runs, and in breeding and dairying, and the small proportion in tillage, accounts to a great extent for the small proportionate number of persons engaged in agricultural labour. This proportion is still further reduced by the fact that, the holdings being generally small, a great deal of the required work is done by the farmers and their families without any hired labour.

Habit of boarding and lodging labourers in farm service.

14. The small holdings have also another marked effect, namely, that as the farmer is often of the same grade as, or very little above that of the labourer, the habit is still very common of boarding and lodging the labourers in farm service, both male and female, children and adults, or providing food for the adult labourers on the working days.

15. Thence it happens that the agricultural labourer, as understood in England, namely, as "a man providing his own food and that of his family, dependent altogether on the "wages he receives from his employer," is comparatively rare over a large part of Wales (O 7, Q. 28).

Money value of labourers' earnings.

16. The money value of the labourers earnings in the cases where they are hired by the year, and boarded and lodged, and in the cases where the farmer provides food for his men only on working days, is investigated by the Assistant-Commissioners, and more particularly by Mr. Culley (O. 20-26), who places the value of the earnings (including all ordinary allowances) at the command of any able-bodied labourer in his district at 11*s.* to 13*s.* a week in South Pembrokeshire, at 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in North Pembrokeshire; at 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in West Carmarthenshire; and at 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week in East Carmarthenshire. Mr. Culley adds, that in the typical district which he selected for minute investigation (the Narberth union, comprising a portion of both counties), he thinks that the value of the earnings of an ordinary farm labourer "is seldom less "than an average of 11*s.* a week, and seldom more than 12*s.*" The rate of remuneration appears to be about the same in Cardiganshire (P. 16-19), also in Montgomeryshire for those hired by the year (P. 34).

Great increase in the last 25 years.

17. Considering that the lower rates stated above are usually for inferior workmen, and considering also the thrifty habits of the people, these rates of earnings, especially when viewed in the light of the past, cannot but be taken as satisfactory. The portion of them paid in money is about double what was paid 20 or 25 years ago. From the commencement of the South Wales Railway, a great change for the better took place in the condition of the labouring class in that part of Wales. From 3*s.* to 4*s.* a week and their food, the money wages have risen since that time to 6*s.* and 7*s.*, and the improvement has extended over the larger portion of the south-western part of Wales. Employment on the railway works not only immediately affected the labour market in a thinly populated district, but when it was completed, by affording easy access to the coal mines and iron and copper works of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, which could formerly be reached only on foot, it produced a considerable migration to those counties (O. 9–12). In Carnarvon, Pembroke, and Flint, wages are from 12*s.* to 14*s.*, and occasionally 15*s.*; by the year, 18*l.* to 24*l.*, with board and lodging (N. 14).

18. But still greater has been the effect of the demand for labour in mines, iron and copper works, and quarries in the southern, eastern, and northern portions of Wales. Throughout the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor on the south and east, and in Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, and the other counties in North Wales, the rates of wages are as follows: in Montgomeryshire, 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and 12*s.* to 14*s.* in winter (P. 34); in Merionethshire, 12*s.* to 15*s.* (P. 47); in Anglesea, 11*s.* to 12*s.* (N. 14); in parts of Monmouth and Radnor, 13*s.* to 14*s.* (Q. 10, 11, 28); in Glamorgan and Brecon, 12*s.* to 15*s.* (M. 7).

Nevertheless education making slow progress.

19. Notwithstanding the greatly improved rate of wages in the western parts of South Wales, and the high rates prevailing in the eastern and northern portions of the principality, elementary education in Wales appears, excepting in a few localities, to be making but slow progress.

Causes of this.

First obstacle, the language.

20. The causes operating to impede it are as follows: First, the language. Although the opening of the whole of Wales by railways has, without doubt, greatly stimulated the desire of the Welsh people to learn English (O. 10, 56, N. 25), the knowledge they obtain of it through the elementary schools is, in the interior of the country, seldom more than of the most imperfect and mechanical kind (N. 18, P. 54–56).

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Along the border counties and the sea the greater admixture of English people, which is causing the line of demarcation between the languages to advance onward more rapidly, also gives greater facilities to the children to acquire sufficient English for colloquial purposes (O. 56, Q. 7, N. 25); but in all parts of the country where Welsh is spoken, a great portion of the child's time at school is necessarily devoted to learning English. "The children in Wales have to begin by learning a foreign "language, which in most cases they are entirely ignorant of up to the time of attending "school" (N. 25). Doubtless, in some of the best inspected schools in the principality this difficulty is overcome by good teaching, and the natural intelligence of the Welsh enables them in many cases to obtain quickly a very creditable degree of proficiency, as noticed by the Rev. S. Pryce, Her Majesty's Inspector of Church of England Schools, in his Report for the year 1868 on Mid Wales (page 164). "Practically," Mr. Pryce states, "the Welsh language is not much of a grievance in a school, if there "is a good and efficient teacher at the head of it."

Overcome in the best schools if attendance long enough.

21. In some localities where the circumstances are favourable, either from the stimulus to learn English being strongly felt, or from the schools being very good, or the influence of employers zealously exerted in favour of education, the school attendance, though irregular, yet being prolonged up to the age of 13, produces satisfactory results. In such cases, the children before leaving school may be able to pass in the 4th Standard, or have acquired the first four simple rules of arithmetic, and can write a letter (m. 46, n. 17, 26, 30, 34, O. 43). But as so many schools are still in the hands of untrained masters, often with the very limited mental powers that can be commanded by the poor salaries they receive—not exceeding in many cases 10*s.* or 11*s.* a week (P. 53, O. 50, 51)—and as the children on their return to their homes in the evening hear nothing spoken but Welsh, and naturally speak nothing else themselves, it can be no matter of surprise that in the interior of the country "very few young farm servants, male or female, are to be "found able to speak or understand English if they have left school before 13" (P. 54).

22. But in the interior of the country the great mass of the children leave school much before the age of 13, and their attendance up to the time of their leaving school is generally irregular.

Other obstacles.

Indifference of parents.

23. In the more English districts on the eastern and northern frontiers of Wales, and by the sea, although wages are high, the apathy or comparative indifference of the parents operates, as is so often found in England, to cause irregularities of attendance, and the early withdrawal of the children from school. Notwithstanding, therefore, that the stimulus arising from the fact that the railways have brought the high wages of the coal and iron districts within easy reach—a stimulus more felt in the counties nearest to those districts than in the remoter ones—there is still a large portion of the agricultural labouring population in the interior of Wales, among whom not only the knowledge of English for colloquial purposes, but a sufficient acquaintance with it for the purposes of self-instruction, is making way very slowly, while in the east of Wales the same sacrifice of the children to the apathy of the parents is found as has been exhibited in so many portions of England.

Early age at which children enter farm service.

24. In the interior of the country the great cause which leads to the early withdrawal of the children from school is the early age at which they enter farm service.

Inducements to this.

25. The motives which induce the parents to send their children so young into farm service are the poverty of the large class of very small farmers, and of the small freeholders and leaseholders as well as the independent labourers. All these are glad to get their children as soon as they can into farm service, not only because they are then off their hands, but because the children then have the advantage of a better diet than they can have at home, to the great benefit of their physical growth and strength.

26. The above facts are clearly illustrated in the following counties:

27. In Cardiganshire "landed property is much subdivided, and the farmers in general "are small." "The county contains a great number of small freeholders, who cultivate "their own land, aided by their families, rarely employing hired labour" (P. 20). "Boys "go to school at from 9 to 12 years of age." * * * "On many farms boys are found "useful at 10 years of age, and they are employed for eight months of the year for six-"pence a day, and are boarded in the farmhouses" (P. 14, 15). The diet of the smaller class of farmers and of day agricultural labourers is inferior to that of farm servants. "Unfortunately the poverty of many parents is such as to make it a matter of the greatest "importance to get their children off their hands at as early an age as possible, and it "has certainly been found that, physically, boys often make great and rapid progress "after they leave home and its privations for the comparative abundance of a farmhouse" (P. 14).

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28. This custom of hiring children into farm service so young, operates "to almost "entirely neutralize any benefit which they may have previously derived from their "education. When once in service, "only in very rare instances is any portion of their "time given to self-improvement" (P. 14).

29. In addition to farms in the valleys, there are the hill farms. In them "the children "of the small farmers or shepherds are employed for many months in the year tending "cattle and sheep," * * * "very young children are habitually employed for perhaps "half the year in tending cattle and sheep," and during the remaining months, "even "when there is a school within reasonable distance from home, which is not often the "case, it is seldom taken advantage of" (P. 12, 22).

30. The farm boys above adverted to (s. 27) who are "engaged at 10 years of "age and employed for eight months in the year, return home for the four winter "months, during which they generally attend school," but it is probable that such partial attendance "would be barely sufficient to enable them to keep up the little that "had been acquired before their engagement on a farm" (P. 15).

31. In the Welsh portion of Montgomeryshire the same facts prevail. Children "leave home and enter service at ages varying from 9 to 13" (P. 32). These children are not alone the children of the small farmers, and of the small freeholders who are numerous in that part of Montgomeryshire, and who "generally seek employment as day labourers, "supplementing their small earnings by the wages thus earned," but the children also of the well paid labourers in agriculture, whose wages are high in that part of the country, "being affected by the demand for labour at the quarries and mines." A good day "agricultural labourer can there earn from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and from 13*s.* to 14*s.* in winter." The excuse of the poverty of the parents, therefore, which is made in Cardiganshire and elsewhere, for sending children so young as 10 to farm service, "will scarcely apply to Montgomeryshire, where the general rate of wages is compara-"tively high" (P. 32, 35).

32. Of Merionethshire a very large portion is "wholly devoted to the rearing and "grazing of black cattle. Sheep farms occupy another large portion of it. In the small "portion of the country where the land is under tillage boys enter farm service from 13 "to 14 years of age." * * * "Girls generally at 9 years of age," "but they are "seldom put to any out door work until they are 11." On the hill farms, which are "generally small and pastoral, a great many young boys are employed in looking after "the sheep and tending cattle, these being the principal occupations on most of the high "lying farms. Farmers there employ their own children for these purposes from a very "early age." (P. 40–44.) In Merionethshire, as in Cardiganshire, notwithstanding the general desire for education "among the farmers as a class," and the hope frequently expressed by them "that as a living language Welsh would soon become extinct," as they "feel its inconveniences daily," "the low rate of wages tells heavily against the parent "when he has several children of an age to send to school. With wages at 7*s.* or 8*s.* a "week it cannot be supposed that a parent with a family can willingly make a sacrifice "of even a penny a week for each child's schooling. In the majority of cases where "there is default on the part of the parent, poverty is the true cause, and an improve-"ment in his condition as a labourer the appropriate remedy." (P. 54–58.)

33. In Monmouthshire and Radnorshire the facts are the same. In the hill districts, which are principally Welsh, there is a great wish among the farmers that their children should be educated "to the extent of being able to read and write," and the children will often go great distances to a good school for that purpose. But in the English districts, if the wages are low or little personal influence exercised over the parents to urge them to send their children to school, or there is a demand for children's labour at an early age, as in the arable districts near the sea, the school attendance is either neglected or desultory. "In poor parishes a good many children are kept away from school because "of the penny." (Q. 40.) "Girls leave school at 9 and 11, and get regular work "if they can, generally farmhouse work," (Q. 39.), and in the arable districts boys "go "as young as eight to keep cows," sometimes "as early as seven to work in the fields" at potato setting and picking, apple picking, and other occupations. But in these two counties it is found that as a rule, "boys' labour, as required by the farmers on the arable "land, need clash very little with the school." Where employed by their parents, both on small and large holdings, they are, as in the counties above noticed, taken to work at a very early age (Q. 42).

34. The same facts appear in Mr. Portman's report on Glamorganshire and Brecon. Even in the vale of Glamorgan, where wages range from 12*s.* to 16*s.* a week, and in some localities from 15*s.* to 20*s.* (m 1, 6), there are found, in several portions of

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it, localities where, either from employment being less regular or the farms small, boys are taken into service at 10 or 11 years of age in consequence of the necessities of the parents (P. 3), "through charitable motives in order to assist the father." (m. 1.) "The "small farmers (in Cardiff union) are very badly off, and cannot afford to pay for their "children's schooling; they are obliged to employ them on the farm." (* *) "The "boys go into service for regular work about 11 years of age, and are sometimes employed "bird-keeping and driving cattle as young as nine years." (m. 20.)

35. In the district of Bridgend "there is a great deal of occasional work going on at "various times of the year, in which the moderate employment of children under ten "adds very much to the resources of the family, and the temptation is no doubt great "to the parents to keep them away from school at such times, and thus to prevent all "progress in their education" (m. 37). Still more in the parishes which run up into or extend over the hills in the northern portion of the country,—a district of small farms and sheep-runs,—the habit prevails, as in the other hill districts, of sending the boys to farm service at or about the age of ten, or otherwise employing them at a very early age. In a parish of this kind very little labour is employed by the farmers, who for the most part cultivate their small holdings by themselves and their children, with perhaps one or two boys living in service in the houses. In another such parish a labourer's wife said, "I have four children, and I cannot afford to lose the small earnings of the children "by sending them to school. My boy of ten years old goes to work in the fields. I "know it is a good thing to have learning, but still the sixpences are a great help" (m. 13, 78).

36. The same circumstances exist in the county of Brecon. Around Brecon "boys "of ten years old are used with the cattle; they live in the farmhouses, and get board and "lodging, and either clothes or 2*l.* a year" (m. 50). "Boys are employed from eight years "upwards, *i.e.*, as soon as they are old enough to watch cattle or disturb crows; the "latter they do in the spring and autumn, the former in the summer. This occupies "but a small portion of their number. After 10 years of age they get hired by the "small farmers, and have constant employment" (m. 51). "There are schools in every "parish, but they are not well attended. The small farmers are less educated than the "labourers, and they are too poor to dispense with the labour of their children on their "farms" (m. 55, 58, 59, 65, 78). In the hill district around Builth, a country of small farms and sheep-runs, "though many of the parishes are well supplied with schools, the "poverty of the parents prevents in many instances their being taken advantage of" (m. 80, 81). "Again, in the hill districts of Carmarthenshire, boys are employed on the "hill farms looking after cattle and sheep at the same early age, and begin to be "employed in the valley farms at 11 or 12" (O. 27, 28).

Localities where education is making satisfactory progress.

37. The localities in the purely Welsh districts, where education is said to be making satisfactory progress, appear to be few. Mr. Culley is able to say of a portion of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen where the vicinity and easy access to the coal, and iron, and copper works have given a great stimulus to the knowledge of English since the country has been penetrated by railways, that if his attention had been confined to that portion of those counties, the growing appreciation of education among the peasants for themselves and their children is so great that, "he would have been inclined "to think that nothing more was needed than to establish efficient schools." (O 54.) In the same manner it appears that in the Crickhowell valley, the neighbourhood of the great iron works on the hills has shewn to the "thrifty and independent Welshman" that education means "high wages," and consequently "the parents are quite awake to "the advantages of education, and will make a sacrifice to send their children to a good "school" (m. 71); an influence which is felt as far off from the iron works as Hay (m. 77).

Where it is not.

38. But it is otherwise in other portions of Wales, along its frontier and by the sea, where the English element prevails, or is intermixed with the Welsh. On this subject, Mr. Culley says:

"If, however, my report had reference only or chiefly to the English quarter of the counties (little England beyond Wales), I fear that I could not have spoken so hopefully. In that district, at least in some parts of it, there is more temptation to keep children from school, as for instance in the colliery districts, when boys and girls, after they reach 10 years of age, can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day separating culm (the dust or small of anthracite coal) from earth at the pit mouths. (Appendix B, 35 b., 41 a., 41 b.) There is also a large proportion of arable land in that district, and therefore a greater demand for youthful labour. Whatever the cause may be, I saw much stronger evidence of a desire to educate their children amongst the Welsh proper than amongst the inhabitants of the English quarter." (O. 55.)

39. Mr. Culley refers to the following evidence on this point:

On the other hand the Rev. John Phelps, vicar of Carew (in the English quarter), says (App. B. 29.):

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"All the children may attend school by paying 1*d.* weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

40. In the "English districts" in Monmouthshire and Radnorshire the poverty or the indifference of the parents produces the same effects (Q. 39, 40).

Indifference of parents although wages high.

41. Wages are uniformly high in consequence of the neighbourhood of collieries, iron and other works, and quarries in the vale of Glamorgan and Neath, as above mentioned (s. 34), in parts of Brecon (m. 49, 58, 68); in a part of Montgomeryshire (P. 32); in the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint (N. 14); and in the four last-mentioned counties especially, there is the same general desire among the parents that has been noticed elsewhere, to have their children taught English because they are aware that a knowledge of the English language is indispensable for their advancement, whatever may be the path of life which they select (N. 18). Yet in all these portions of Wales, and even in the four last-mentioned counties where the result of school attendance is, on the whole, "tolerably satisfactory, and certainly more satisfactory than "the result attained in most districts in England" with which Mr. Norman is acquainted (N. 26), there are, nevertheless, frequent complaints of the indifference of the parents as one of the causes of the defective state of education where it is defective. (N. 27, P. 32).

42. This is illustrated by the following evidence:—

"The Reverend J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, who had been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools in Anglesea, told me that he thought the instruction given was tolerably satisfactory, and added—

"There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents." (n. Evid. 6.)

43. Miss Smith, mistress at a small school near Carnarvon, says:—

"The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent children learning to read, write, and cipher, if they would attend regularly at other times." (n. Evid. 11.)

44. The Rev. J. W. Ellis, rector of Llanelhaiarn, near Pwllheli, Carnarvonshire, says:—

"The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them to earn wages." (n. Evid. 12.)

45. Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says:—

"There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them." (n. Evid. 18.)

46. Mr. J. D. Jones, who was schoolmaster of the British School, Ruthin, in Denbighshire, for 14 years, says:—

"There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of labourers." (n. Evid. 38.)

47. Mr. Beverley, who was schoolmaster at Eglwas, Fach, in Denbighshire, for 30 years, says:—

"There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children learning the 'three R's' satisfactorily." (n. Evid. 22.)

48. Again, in the neighbourhood of Carnarvon, where Mr. Owen Jones, land agent, states the wages of a man hired by the week, at 15*s.* a week, and where a good labourer hired by the year gets "about 20*l.* a year, and his board and lodging," that gentleman adds as follows:—

"I don't think the state of education at present is satisfactory; there are not enough schools, and the children are taken away too young. There are an immense number of children now growing up without the power of reading and writing. There is no agricultural work which really interferes with the education. The main obstacle to education is the indifference of the parents. Education never will be satisfactory as long as it is left to the option of the parents whether they send their children to school or not.

"It is very desirable that a law should be passed requiring a certain amount of education as a condition of employment" (n. 9). (See also n. 16, 22, 29, 31.)

49. In the vale of Glamorganshire, the vale of Neath, and in parts of Brecon, the rate of wages is raised by the demand for labour in the seaport towns as well as in the hills; "most of the young men, the best workers, go away to the works in the hills" (m. 30); "our lads go off to the works or to Cardiff" (m. 28). In several parishes in this district the irregularity of attendance of the children is attributed to the indifference of the parents, or "the carelessness of the young as to whether they are educated or not" (m. 15, 30, 31, 33, 36). "Advantage is not taken of the schools. I do not think that early labour "is the hindrance, but rather neglect on the part of the parents, who are themselves "uneducated and do not care sufficiently for the welfare of their children" (m. 45).

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50. The facts above detailed are in entire accordance with those recorded by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools.

51. The Rev. B. J. Binns in his report on Church of England Schools in South Wales, for 1870, makes the following remarks on the irregularity of school attendance, and the early age at which children are removed from schools :—

"Education is also hindered to a great extent in this district by the irregularity of school attendance. Notwithstanding the efforts which have been made, still the fact remains that less than two thirds of the total number of scholars actually present on the days of inspection had completed the moderate number of 200 attendances during last year. There is, however, still ample room for improvement, after making all due allowances for sickness, &c. In the case of those who do not fulfil so easy a requirement as that which now suffices to procure the insertion of their names on the examination schedule, even the best instruction fails of producing any marked or permanent effects. They pass through our schools comparatively unheeded; they are unable to keep pace with the rest of the class; they scarcely ever acquire those habits of diligence and application which are so essential to real progress, and a great part of the lessons they learn, from not being fully comprehended, is in a manner lost and useless." . . . . . .

"The third impediment to the progress of education is the early age at which children are removed from school, in order to commence a life of labour. Even the rural districts are not exempt from the charge of prematurely employing them in various kinds of work ill suited to their age and strength."

"Owing to the inducement of high wages men are constantly leaving the farm for the foundry or coal mine, and such emigrations have caused in many places a positive scarcity of full grown labourers."

"The Rev. R. Lewis, a diocesan inspector in Carmarthenshire, in reporting upon the decrease of scholars in the schools he visited, says, "I believe that this decrease in the numbers is attributable in a great measure to the scarcity of labour prevalent in the neighbourhood, which has resulted in the employment of younger children than formerly in agricultural and domestic work. In proof of this I have observed that the maximum age of children attending the above schools has been reduced in the course of the last 12 months by at least one year." (*ibid.*)

Pressure of some kind wanted.

52. It appears therefore, from the circumstances enumerated, that both in the purely Welsh, and in the mixed Welsh and English portions of the principality, pressure of some kind is wanted to secure to the children the benefits of a sound and effectual elementary education. In the Welsh districts it has been shown that it is the poverty of the parents on the one hand, and on the other the demand for cheap labour, which leads to the children being deprived of the proper amount of education. The parents are naturally anxious to get their children off their hands at the earliest possible age, and to place them in farm service, where the children also benefit by the better food than they could obtain at home; and the small farmers in the vales are glad to have them at a little more than the cost of their board and lodging. In the English districts, where poverty is not the excuse, it is the indifference of the parents. Some pressure is required to conduce to better progress before the child enters farm service or goes permanently to work, and also to induce them to keep up and extend what they may have already learnt after they have entered upon farm service or permanent work.

And will be applied by the Bill now before Parliament.

53. The kinds of pressure suggested in the evidence embrace every variety that has been before presented for consideration by witnesses in our previous reports (m. 21, 30, 37, 44, 48, 53, 54, 58, 59, 69; n. 1, 4, 9, 39, p. 17, 23). As the question of enforcing a due amount of school attendance has been submitted to the judgment of Parliament by the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Honourable W. E. Forster, no further remark upon the subject is called for by us in this place.

Another obstacle is the insufficient number and bad distribution of schools.

54. The insufficient number and the bad distribution of good schools in the principality is another very widely prevailing cause of the defective state of education where it is defective. This subject is thus noticed by Mr. Culley: "There is, however, another "cause affecting injuriously the attendance of young children, which is the distance "many of them have to walk, owing as much to a bad distribution as to an absolute "want of schools" (Q. 46). Instances are given of this defective supply and distribution of schools in his district, and the principal causes are pointed out, namely, first, the religious difficulty, which appears to him to be working unmixed evil by keeping alive two poverty-stricken schools "when one well supported one would do much better work than both" (Q. 49), and secondly, the pecuniary difficulty in certain localities where funds cannot be raised for school houses or for the payment of a sufficient salary to ensure good teachers (Q. 50-52). The same facts are prominently mentioned by all the other Assistant Commissioners. (M. 35, N. 27, P. 51-3.)

55. The facts as they exist throughout Mid-Wales, in the counties of Montgomery, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Radnor, and the border counties, are given in the following summary by the Rev. J. Pryce, Her Majesty's Inspector of Church of England Schools, in his report to the Committee of Council on Education on Mid-Wales, for the year 1868. In those counties there were in that year annual grant schools 123, schools under simple inspection 49; there were at the same time 112 parishes in those same

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counties with a population over 400, in which there were no Government schools. Of the 40 schools under simple inspection Mr. Pryce states that he "found the order and "instruction in these schools low and unsatisfactory, with very few exceptions" (pp. 171-174), while the character of such schools as exist in the parishes where there is no Government school is, he thinks, "a grade or two lower than that in simple inspection schools" (p. 176). Mr. Bowstead in his report for the same year on British and other Protestant schools, not connected with the Church of England, in the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Glamorgan and Gloucester (quoting from the Parliamentary paper No. 114, of the session of 1868), shows that "out of nearly 800 enumerated "places in his district there are scarcely 300 which possess aided schools, while 500 "have no schools at all that avail themselves of the Parliamentary grant; and Mr. "Bowstead sees reason to believe that the few schools that exist in those localities are "generally, though not invariably, of the least efficient class" (p. 278). It is highly satisfactory to observe that the Bill on Elementary Education recently presented to Parliament proposes to deal effectually with this state of things, wherever found throughout the country.

Will be corrected by the Bill now before Parliament.

56. But the establishment of schools, however efficient and well-situated with reference to the population, cannot alone be depended upon to secure the desired progress in elementary education. The indifference of uneducated parents, the demand for children's labour by employers and parents, and the strong inducement weighing upon parents to send their children to farm service at an early age, have been above shown in detail to make the counteracting force of a legal requirement necessary to prevent the sacrifice of the child's highest interests. The case described in the parish of Lantile-Veffry is shown throughout the evidence to be very common that although "every encouragement is "given to the parents to send their children to school," they generally allow the children to do as they like, "being themselves indifferent about education" (o. Appendix B. 43). In that parish there are two Church of England and one Dissenting school (*ibid.*); and the state of the case is well described in reference to another parish, where, though the means of education are generally taken advantage of, "yet the benefits of education, in "too many cases, are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration "to be derived from child labour" (o. Appendix B. 44). The vales of Glamorgan and Neath are very fairly supplied with good schools (M. 34), yet the numerous suggestions made by persons of position and intelligence in those districts in favour of some kind of pressure to be placed by law upon both parents and employers, in order to secure a due amount of school attendance, testify to the general feeling in regard to the need for it (M. 39).

Establishment of good schools not sufficient without some amount of compulsory attendance.

57. But schools will be of little avail to effect the ultimate object of education,—not only a higher intelligence but purer morals,—as long as the great blot remains upon the state of civilization in Wales, which has been long noticed and often commented upon, but upon which public opinion appears hitherto to have exercised little corrective power—the state of the cottage accommodation. Some of the principal landowners in Wales have indeed expended large sums in providing proper cottages both as regards accommodation and number on their estates; and the Assistant Commissioners record the fact that improvement is in progress in many properties in their respective districts. But the proportion of those localities where the cottages are very defective in accommodation, and insufficient in number for the wants of the rural population is evidently very great throughout Wales.

Schools of little avail unless cottage accommodation improved.

58. In the 35 parishes in the counties of Pembroke and Carnarvon, the cottages in 24 are described by competent witnesses as either "*bad*, or *poor*, or *not good;* in 10 parishes they are said to be *fair* or *tolerably good*, or *improving;*" in one parish they are described as "good" (O. 57). Their general character is thus given by Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent "to the Earl of Cawdor, who has not only recently built improved cottages, but has also "published a book on cottage plans." (O. 65.)

State of cottages in Wales.

Progress of improvement slow.

"The state of cottages throughout the country (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen) is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultual interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, or convenience of the occupants; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy walls and floors, the former often of earth; frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor, and two upper rooms. Overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door." (O. 58.)

59. This description is confirmed by unexceptionable witnesses as regards other portions of those counties. (O. 58-62.)

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60. Of Cardiganshire it is remarked that the great blot upon this county is the condition of its cottages. (P. 24.)

61. In Montgomeryshire, amidst much that is still defective, especially in the villages, where speculators have built cottages "without reference to the health, decency, or convenience of the future inmates," and in the hills where squatters have erected their "hovels," there are, as in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, good proofs of a better state of things on large estates.

62. In the same report it is observed,—

"Where cottages, as is still often the case, are built on lease, the landlord now generally insists on adopting a plan of his own, in which proper arrangements are made for comfort and decency. This is especially the case on the property of Earl Vane, and these, as well as these built at his own cost, leave nothing to be desired. I have pleasure also in recording the liberal spirit in which this great social want has been met by another of the great landed proprietors of the principality, namely, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., the cottages on whose estates in Montgomeryshire are in a very satisfactory condition, the greater number of them having four rooms" (P. 37-9).

63. Of Merionethshire it is said that the remarks "made on the deplorable want of proper cottages in Cardiganshire apply with full force" to that county. (P. 48.)

64. Of North Wales Mr. Norman states that he had "never seen in England as many bad cottages" as he saw in North Wales. They are described as "very generally insufficient" in accommodation, especially as regards the sleeping apartments. Mr. Norman observes that in North Wales the great mass of the cottages belong to the landlords (N. 37). Nevertheless, although he saw "some good cottages on the estate of Mr. "Hughes, at Kinmel, and of Lord Penrhyn at Bangor," good cottages appeared to him "to be less numerous in Wales, and to be increasing at a slower rate than in any part of "England" with which he is acquainted. (N. 38.)

65. In Monmouthshire one cause of the prevalence of an inferior class of cottages is the large number that have been built by "squatters" and which are either freehold or held at a nominal rent. Of the latter class there are said to be "more than 800 on the Duke of Beaufort's estates alone" (Q. 43). But the worst cottages which Mr. Boyle saw in Monmouthshire, next to some of those of the poorer cottagers (of "squatters"), were those on the outskirts of the smaller towns, inhabited by "agricultural labourers." Unhappily "in this county," Mr. Boyle adds, "it has been for a long time not the habit "for landed proprietors to build cottages, and consequently in such towns as Usk and "Caerleon there is a large agricultural population going out in many instances long "distances (three, four, and five miles) to work." (Q. 46.)

The same thing exists, Mr. Boyle says, "over most of the county." (*ibid.*)

66. Radnorshire, Glamorgan, and Brecon are the only counties in Wales in which the Assistant Commissioners remarked general and satisfactory signs of progress and improvement in the supply of good cottages.

67. The results of the generally insufficient accommodation in the cottages are overcrowding and the consequent want of privacy; while "the system of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, haylofts, &c." is produced also by the want of cottages in sufficient numbers for the population. To the overcrowding, and to the prevalent habit of thus domiciling the male servants on farms as above described, "entirely removed from the control of the master" (O. 39), are traced the immorality so generally imputed to the labouring classes in Wales. Two other special causes are named as greatly encouraging immorality—the habit of hiring male and female servants at hiring fairs without inquiry as to character, and the excessive liberty allowed to them in farm service. (O. 39, P. 11.)

Immorality traced partly to the overcrowding in cottages.

68. On these subjects a letter was addressed by Sir James J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell, "to the freeholders and small farmers of the county of "Carmarthen," in which, "after urging upon farmers to adopt a system of characters "for their hired servants, male and female," those gentlemen say,—

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which at present much unnecessary license is given in farm houses." (O. 39.)

69. It is not to employment in agriculture, but to the above-mentioned causes that the "laxity of morals among the female peasantry of Wales is attributed, which is unhappily "notorious" (P. 11). "The inveterate system of night courting" is said to have "destroyed all delicacy of character" (*ibid.*). The same remarks are made in reference to

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Radnorshire (Q. 27) as above in reference to the western counties of South Wales. It appears doubtful whether North Wales shares in this character to its full extent (N. 35, note), but the common opinion that marriage cancels previous immorality appears to prevail as widely in North as in South Wales (*ibid.*).

70. An opinion is common in some districts "that the want of decent dwellings is "driving away the rural population to an extent which injuriously affects the agricultural "interest" (O. 61, Q. 46). But of the two causes which are said to be tempting the peasantry in a portion of Wales at least to leave the rural districts—better accommodation and high wages—Mr. Culley's observations in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen incline him to attribute that movement chiefly to the latter cause (O. 64). Nevertheless, that it is both the interest and duty of the owners of the land to provide adequate and proper cottage accommodation is nowhere a matter of doubt. "If it be "the landlord's duty," as Mr. Culley expresses himself, "to see that there is a good "school within a reasonable distance of the cottages on his estate, it is far more his duty "to see that those cottages are not such as to make it impossible to teach in that "school anything better than reading, writing and cyphering" (O. 64). As nearly all the cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen belong to the landlords, it is more evidently their duty to make every endeavour in their power to give their labourers dwellings in which the ordinary decencies of life may be observed, "I say," Mr. Culley adds, "every endeavour in their power, as in many districts it is too evident that the "great cottage difficulty is the poverty of the land-owning class, the possessors of "heavily burdened estates" (O. 74, P. 26) who, in the present state of the law, are unable adequately to discharge the duties of ownership either to the labourers on their estates or to the public. It may be anticipated that the measure about to be introduced into Parliament for facilitating the transfer of land will redress this great evil; for, so far as it may tend to convert nominal into real ownership, it will lead at once to an amelioration, in most important particulars, of the condition of the agricultural labouring class, and will consequently give a great stimulus to the progress of education and intelligence among the rising and future generations.

The owners of heavily burdened estates unable to provide good cottages.

71. Mr. Culley notices "that the women in the part of South Wales visited by him "(portions of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen) are much better housewives "than the women of the south midland counties of England." He bears testimony "in "favour of the Welsh labourers' wives that, except in the north of England or in Scotland, "he never saw such a general endeavour to make a poor dwelling look it's best." "Nor," he adds, "should I fail to say for the husbands, that although they earn lower wages "and receive less aid from their childrens' earnings than their fellows in any of the "southern English counties which I have visited, their thrifty habits allow their houses "to show signs of comfort and well-to-doism which might put to shame their better paid "brethren." (O. 63.)

Favourable characteristics in Welsh cottages.

72. "As compared with the Berkshire labourer," Mr. Culley describes the agricultural labourer in that part of Wales as "thrifty and sober; his thrift induces him to live on "cheaper and coarser food, and his sobriety is a savings bank; but I take it that both "thrift and sobriety are aided by the way in which his wages are paid," (O. 38.)

Thrift and sobriety of labourers.

73. Mr. Culley goes very fully into the manner in which the earnings of the farm servants and independent labourers are paid, and the total value of their receipts in kind and in money, including cottage and garden, and cow allotments, which are common, and potato ground (O. 14–26, 70–2). He shows that since railways have penetrated the country, wages have risen from one-third to one-half as much again as they were 25 years ago (O. 9). This has given the labourer the means of improving his diet, and of therefore adding to his working power. The consequence of the low diet of 25 years ago was that piecework could not be done cheaper in Wales, notwithstanding the then low rate of wages, "than in the east of England" (O. 12). Now, on the contrary, Mr. Culley finds that in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire where wages "have gone up to some-"thing like an average (all told) of 12*s.* a week, such agricultural piecework as the "Welsh understand, as for instance, mowing corn and hay," is cheaper than in any English county with which Mr. Culley is acquainted (*ibid.*). The change has been beneficial to all parties. During the very time that wages have been almost doubled, "Welsh farming has improved." The farmer also, as the ratepayer, is receiving a reward for feeding his labourers better. In the opinion of the medical officer of the Narberth Union, since the change of food the "labourer is now able to resist the "influence of weather, and when he is struck down by disease, there is far greater

Total value of earnings.

Improvement in diet.

Results beneficial both to labourer and employer.

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" rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so that he is able soon to resume " work " (O. 12, 13) The improvement in the efficiency of the labourer, where he has had the advantage of a more nourishing diet, is noticed in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire (P. 17, 36). The effect upon the agricultural labourers of North Wales of the superior quality of their diet, appears to be shown in their being " a muscular and " robust race, capable of undergoing great labour." (N. 17.)

74. The report of Dr. Edward Smith on the food of the poorer labouring classes, in the 6th Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Privy Council (1864), gives the nutritive value of the foods in the separate dietaries " calculated upon the amount of " carbon and nitrogen contained in them (p. 218); from which the following results " are shown in regard to the dietaries of the labourers in agriculture in North Wales, " South Wales, and the average of England." Nutritive value of food of Welsh labourer.

" Carbon and nitrogen contained in the food for each computed adult in—

	Carbon grains.	Nitrogen grains.
Anglesea - - - -	60,784	2,521
North Wales - - - -	45,613	1,765
South Wales - - - -	38,675	1,806
England - - - - -	40,673	1,594

(P. 236, 271.)

" Potatoes, oatmeal in various forms, and barely bread or cake are still the staple form of food in many parts of South Wales. Oatmeal, prepared in various forms peculiar to Wales (p. 273), forms a somewhat larger proportion of the food of the peasantry in North than in South Wales, but in the former is united with a greater variety of nourishing articles of food. In Scotland there is a general belief that it is a stronger food than wheaten flour, and more sustaining under the pressure of severe labour (p. 278). The quantity consumed per adult probably influences the conclusion. This is estimated at 7 lbs. weekly, when conjoined with other farinaceous food; and when it was the sole breadstuff eaten the quantity allowed to each man was 17½ lbs. per week, and for women one-half or two-thirds of that quantity." (p. 277.)

75. In Wales the average quantity of oatmeal consumed by each computed adult was only three quarters of a pound weekly. In England Dr. Smith found that there is no impression in the minds of the farm labourers that it is better food than wheaten flour (p. 240); and his conclusion, "from very extended inquiry amongst this class," is, that " the universal adoption of white flour at the present day is based upon principles of " sound economy, both as regards the cost of food and the nutriment which the young " and old members of a family can derive from it. It is not, as some persons still " assert, a prejudice either in reference to the use of the one kind or the avoidance of the " other."

76. Dr. Smith drew the following general conclusions from his inquiry into the conditions of nourishment of the farm labourers in Wales.

" 1. The inhabitants of Anglesea and North Wales are well fed, and spend their money economically.
" 2. They eat a large quantity of breadstuffs and milk, with a moderate quantity of sugars and fats, and a small quantity of meat.
" 3. Cheese is eaten largely in South Wales, and with bread is there the staff of life.
" 4. The average income and expenditure for food are good.
" 5. In all respects the families in the Isle of Anglesea occupy the highest scale.
" 6. South Wales is inferior in nearly all respects to the other divisions; inferior in personal qualities, health, income, kind of food, and quantity of food. It is superior in the amount of cheese obtained, and in the greater economy in the use of foods.
" 7. South Wales is remarkable also for the very small quantity of meat and separated fats eaten, and for the many families who never obtain them, and proves that much health and strength may be obtained by a dietary of breadstuffs, milk, and cheese. I have been exceedingly struck with the healthy appearance of those who most rarely eat meat or bacon.
" 8. It is to be regretted that the use of tea and coffee is increasing in the poor districts of South Wales, where, as a whole, the amount of nutriment obtained is not more than sufficient to maintain health, and where, therefore, there is no room for spending money upon luxuries." (P. 274.)

77. It would appear that notwithstanding the improvement in the dietary of the rural labourers of South Wales, as compared with 20 or 25 years ago, as already pointed out, much remains still to be done to bring up the working powers of the South Wales population generally to a satisfactory standard, and consequently to improve their capacity to perform their duties in the education of their children, the disposition to which, in proportion to their means, seems to have been greatly quickened of late years.

78. The system of small farms (of from 10 to 50 acres), in its bearing upon the best interests of the occupier, his children, and the community at large, receives much illustration in the evidence relating to it in Wales. There can be no doubt that in System of small farms.

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Wales, as in England, according to the evidence in our previous Reports (1st Report, pp. 57–64; 2nd Report, pp. 115–16), the small farmer lives harder, employs his children earlier, and gives them less education than the ordinary agricultural labourer. And in regard to the result of small farms on the produce of the land, the evidence entirely confirms the opinion expressed by Mr. Culley in a former Report, that "it is impossible "for agriculture to make any decided advance in a district where the holdings are so "small as to make it unprofitable for the occupier to employ the ordinary mechanical "aids which increase the produce of a farm at the same time that they lessen the cost "of production." (O. 67.)

Advantages and disadvantages of.

79. The small farmers are unquestionably "a very industrious race, and they impart their industrious habits to their children" (O. 69), and although they both work harder than the ordinary agricultural labourer, and are able to command less of the necessary comforts of life, they naturally much prefer their position to that of the labourers, on account of its independence (N. 16), and the price at which they value their independence must be set off against the certainly better living of the labourer in South Wales (O. 68, P. 45–47). In some parts of the country landowners may prefer to allow this system to continue (P. 55). But the general tendency with regard to it is thus expressed by Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor:—

"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales, are the want of capital and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend on. Landlords ought, by degrees, to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small homesteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise; *if they do not, the country must remain as at present, very little advanced from a state of nature as regards farming.*" (O. 67. Note).

Importance of supply of milk to labourer's family.

Different modes of giving him that advantage.

80. But with the gradual disappearance of the small farms, which economical causes cannot fail to cause to continue, it is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the class that will have thus changed their position that, for the sake of their children in particular, one advantage which they derived from their small occupations should in some form be preserved to them. The abundance of milk as an article of diet, and the occupation afforded by the dairy to the females of his family, are very valuable elements in the condition of the small farmer. If arrangements are adopted by which when he becomes dependent on daily wages as an agricultural labourer he can keep a cow, he would, according to the best opinions, if in constant employ, have no reason to regret the change (O. 70). The modes adopted in different parts of the kingdom are various. The "cow-gates" in Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Rutland are thus described by Mr. Stanhope in our 2nd Report (p. 27):—

177. In the western counties, and in Rutland, a few landowners are accustomed to let to some of their labourers two or three acres of land, in order to enable them to keep a cow. In Cheshire a modification of this plan is found in the "ley," or run for a cow, assigned at a small rent in some villages to those labourers who desire it. The inquiries which I made into this system (and especially on the estate of Sir Baldwyn Leighton in Shropshire, who has adopted it for many years), lead me to form a very favourable estimate of the inducement to thrifty habits, and of the comfort it afforded. "A "good cow will at least produce 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week in summer from butter, besides affording milk for the "family." In another case the value of a cow to a family is estimated at 12*l.* a year upon an average, although in one favourable instance it amounted to 18*l.* (Evid. 216.) The whole character of the labouring population was said to be raised, and providence before marriage, in order to obtain this additional comfort, was very much increased by it. "But there is a caution," says one writer on the subject, "to be observed. Thrift and savings must in every case *precede* the grant of land, or the most "fatal consequences may ensue. Idle labourers will endeavour to subsist on their cow and their wife's "labour, the district will become over populated for the demand for labour, wages will fall, and the "people will starve, as in Ireland; and the occasional loss of a cow, where there is no previous saving, "will bring ruin to the cottage home." On the Loton estate (Sir B. Leighton's) this caution is always observed, and to this may be attributed its success there. The holdings are never let to any man who cannot produce a savings' bank book, and show that he has saved enough to occupy this amount of land. The result has been that almost all the labourers have a savings' bank book, and for every cottage with land attached which becomes vacant there are many applications. (Evid. 138.) One family, which had lost four cows in seven years, had still 10*l.* in the savings' bank. I would call your particular attention to the details of my visit to this estate.

178. The chief objection urged to the system is the amount of time for which the care of a cow withdraws a labourer from his ordinary employment. In almost all the cases brought under my notice this amounted to three weeks or a month (Evid. 188); and though employers in Shropshire and Staffordshire are divided in opinion as to the necessity for this, and also as to the extent to which it interferes with a man's efficiency, in most counties such an amount of absence would at once stamp a labourer as irregular. Besides this, the occupiers of such plots neglect the education of their children far more than ordinary labourers, especially where they send their cow out into the lanes,

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or keep (as they often do) a small donkey cart. Bad farming too is the rule on all such occupations, and great care is needed to prevent any part from being ploughed up, because the whole object is not to create small farmers, but to encourage thrifty and efficient farm labourers.

"179. A modification of this system which is common in Scotland, was observed by me in Cheshire, and on Mr. Dudgeon's farm in Sussex, and is that of giving regular labourers keep for a cow during the year, the animal being looked after by the regular herdsman of the farm. This appeared to me to comprise all the advantages of the system already noticed with none of its drawbacks. It is an equal encouragement to saving, and involves no loss of time to the labourer, no employment of his children, and requires no supervision. It renders unnecessary the subdivision of the grass land into very small fields, and the loss of space and the expense of fencing thereby caused. The gradual extension of such a plan to a limited number of deserving labourers in every parish, where it is possible, would be of the greatest value."

81. The system of "cow allotments" is also thus described by Mr. Culley in his account of Derbyshire in our second Report (p. 115):

"66. The 'Derbyshire neck' is certainly much less prevalent in the county than it used to be, and from whatever cause the malady settled itself in that district, there can be little doubt that the number of persons attacked by it is diminishing pretty much in the same ratio as the power of obtaining more nutritious diet increases.

"67. The introduction of Mr. Wrench's and Mr. Vawdrey's evidence leads me to discuss here the provision of milk, and what I may call the cow-allotment system, because I am unwilling to weaken the effect of their evidence by allowing any other subject to intervene.

"I believe it would be impossible to over-estimate the value of such a provision of milk as is within the reach of the families of most of the Derbyshire labourers. There are features too in the manner in which it is sometimes obtained, which tend to show how the condition of the labourer and his family may be improved without the danger of making him above doing his duty in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call him.

"68. Many labourers in the north of Derbyshire rent with their cottage six or eight acres of grass land with a shippon attached, and are thus enabled to keep two cows during both summer and winter. Others rent a smaller quantity of grass land which they mow, and graze their cows during summer in one of their master's fields, or more commonly in the nearest nobleman or gentleman's park. Others again, who live near a park where they can enjoy this privilege, and who have no cow of their own, borrow one from a farmer and so get her milk during the summer months at a cost of from 3*l.* to 4*l.*

"69. Some further examples of the evidence I received on this subject will perhaps explain the milk system better, and show how, in the opinion of persons who know both, a labourer with his cow-allotment compares with a small farmer. * * *

"76. Such are the opinions of gentlemen who have every reason for understanding the position of the labourer and small farmer in North Derbyshire. I have not myself the smallest doubt that a regular labourer with 14*s.* a week and a grass allotment sufficient to keep two cows, is in a better position pecuniarily than the small farmer; and all the evidence I have received on this subject in Derbyshire, and have since received in South Wales, goes to show that he treats his family fully as well, *i.e.*, that he sends his children more regularly to school, and does not send them to work so early.

"The amount of savings too necessary to become the possessor of a couple of cows and occupier of from 6 to 10 acres is within reach of 10 times as many labourers, perhaps 100 times as many, as the amount which would be required to stock a farm which would maintain him with equal comfort as a farmer.

"Here then lies the secret of the comfort of many of the labourers homes in North Derbyshire. The father brings in 14*s.* or 15*s.* a week, and the mother finds work enough at home in managing her cows and house, and looking after her husband's and her children's clothes; and when their turn comes the children go out to work with frames much stronger than those of their own age who have lacked one of the first necessaries of early life, and with the advantage of an industrial training which is certain to be of use to them in after life.

"An allotment or garden is of the very greatest possible benefit to a labourer as long as it does not interfere with his legitimate employment, but a cultivated allotment very soon reaches that limit. The work to be done on such an allotment is chiefly man's work, whereas the management of the cow allotment may be left almost entirely to the woman.

"The great difficulty in the way of introducing such a system in the southern counties, at least for those labourers who live near gentlemen's parks, is the ignorance of the women of the management of cows and dairy produce, a difficulty which might, however, be gradually overcome.

"77. In South Derbyshire there is no such reason for the gradually diminishing number of cows kept by labourers. Formerly many cows were kept in the lanes in summer, and fed in the winter on grains purchased from the Burton breweries. During the last few years the grazing of cows about the roads has very properly been put an end to, but no provision has been made for the cows of labourers who had long enjoyed that privilege.

"78. I have dwelt on what I consider the advantages of the cow-allotment system as against small farms, because unless we are altogether to abandon our approaches to free trade in land as in other things, it is impossible to resist the tendency to increase farms to such a size as to make it profitable to use on them all the means which reduce the cost of labour and add to the value of the produce."

82. Whichever may be the plan found most suitable to the habits and intelligence of the labourer, and the nature of the soil,—whether that of letting two to four acres of land to the labourer as soon as he has saved money enough to buy a cow, as in Rutlandshire and the other counties above named, or allowing the labourer to pay for the keep of a cow during the year "the animal being looked after by the regular herdsman of the farm,"

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as in the cases mentioned by Mr. Stanhope,—there cannot be a doubt that the extension of such plans to deserving labourers, where possible, would be of the highest value.

Female labour no legislation required.

83. On the subject of female labour on farms and its moral results the evidence in Wales very nearly corresponds with that which we found to be the case in England. On dairy farms female labour is largely and suitably employed. On arable farms they are employed in all kinds of farm work. But it does not appear that field labour proper is chargeable with producing immorality in a sufficient degree to call for legislation. There is also apparent in Wales, as in England, an increasing indisposition to the employment among the females themselves, where the resources of the head of the family are enough to permit of its being dispensed with. (O. 33–4, P. 10.)

84. In a part of Carmarthenshire the rise in men's wages is stated as a probable cause for the diminution of female labour (O. 34). In Cardiganshire the employment of females has "considerably dimininished within the last 25 years" (P. 10), "not more than one-half of what it was;" several farmers expressed themselves as considering the employment of females in field labour "as both economically false and morally wrong." Mr. Portman has also been led to an opinion adverse on moral and economical grounds to the employment of female labour in the fields (M. 29). In Montgomeryshire the employment of women in agriculture is described as "very rare both in the "Welsh and English portions of the county (P. 31). The general rate of wages in "that county is comparatively high" (P. 32). In North Wales the extent to which women are employed in agriculture is said to be "on the whole insignificant" (N. 19). Their employment is diminishing in Monmouthshire and Radnorshire (Q. 11), and also in Glamorgan and Brecon. (M. 25–30.)

85. In Merionethshire the employment of women in agriculture is common, but they are engaged as "domestic servants" with the understanding that they are to assist in out-door work on the farm (P. 42). In all these counties where girls are employed they go into farm service at the same early age as boys, namely, from 9 to 12 or 13 years of age (P. 32, 44, 64), to the detriment, as has been shown (ss. 24–31), of their opportunities for education.

Retrospect on general bearing of our inquiries.

86. In concluding this report on Wales we cannot refrain from casting a retrospect on the general bearing of our inquiries, as embodied in our two reports on England and in this report, on the condition and prospects of the agricultural labourer.

87. In the most highly farmed districts of the country, and in the other portions within the influence of the demand for labour in counties of mining or manufacturing industry, the earnings of the agricultural labourer in regular employ have been shown to be on a very satisfactory scale.

88. Great progress is being made in all parts of the kingdom in the improvement of the labourer's cottage home; and where his dwelling, in size and accommodation, admits of due attention to the decencies and comforts of life; where he has a good garden attached or near to his cottage; where either by the privilege of "a cowgate" or any other arrangement he has a sufficient supply of milk for himself and his family; where, in default of a garden, he has a suitable allotment or potato ground; and where he is in regular employ at good wages, his material condition is better than that of a small farmer, and he has the means, and there is no moral obstacle to prevent his having the disposition, to dispense with the premature labour of his children to an extent to give them the opportunity of laying the foundation of a sufficient elementary education.

89. Where the demand for his labour is less; where he is not in regular employ; where his dwelling is crowded and comfortless; where he has none of the encouragements to thrift and sobriety held out by the hope of being able to keep a cow, and to raise a good supply of vegetables from a plot of land, or to keep a pig, and from these sources to obtain a more varied, a more agreeable, and a more nourishing diet for himself and his family, his own physical and moral qualities will be depressed, and this depression will be manifested in his indifference to, or his neglect of, the education and moral training of his children.

Average condition of Welsh labourers better than those of

90. It would appear that the average condition of the agricultural labourer in Wales is superior to what is met with in many of the southern counties of England, though not equal to the state of things in the northern and eastern districts. The desire for education is very general, and where the schools are efficiently conducted, the children are often kept at school to a later age than is common in many parts of England. The

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Welsh labourers are generally quite aware that a knowledge of the English language is necessary to the advancement of their children, but there seems some danger of the same error being committed in Wales, that for a time prevailed in Scotland, in attempting to teach English to children who speak nothing but Welsh at home, by teachers who know nothing of Welsh.

southern English counties. General desire of Welsh labourers to learn English. Normal schools necessary to train Welsh teachers to teach English.

91. The effect of this error is, as was exemplified in Scotland among the Gælic population, that the children may learn to read English with perfect fluency and intonation, and yet be unable to converse in it, or even to understand a single sentence of what they read. (Education Commission (Scotland) 1866. Report on the Hebrides, pp. 112–113.) Mr. Fearon, the Privy Council inspector, says in his Report for 1867–8 on Welsh schools, "I often meet with children in rural localities who can read the Welsh Testament "well, and who know many verses of it and several Welsh hymns by heart, totally "unable to give the English equivalent for the commonest English nouns and adjectives. "It cannot be expected that the reading of such children should be anything but "mechanical."

92. A foreign language can only be learnt, except by residence in a country where it is spoken, through the language native to the learner; and hence the foundation of a Normal School for the special training of Welsh teachers is in our opinion the most certain method of removing the obstacle to Welsh civilization, which is created by the prevalence of the Welsh language.

93. By the Parliamentary return of 1868, which we have referred to above (s. 55), it was shown that in the counties of Montgomery, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Radnor alone, there were no less than 112 parishes, each with a population exceeding 400, in which there were no schools of any description recognized by Government; and we have also referred to the fact noticed by Mr. Bowstead, the Privy Council Inspector, in his report for the same year, that in his district, which includes the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Glamorgan, and Gloucester, there are at least 250 centres of instruction remaining to be brought into connexion with the public provision for elementary education; "and it must not be supposed" Mr. Bowstead states, "that this "can be accomplished by 250 schools, as many of these places are large ones, and "require more than a single school."

94. In many of these districts trained native teachers, speaking both Welsh and English, are for the reason above given, the only description of teacher fitted to cope with the difficulties of teaching English to Welsh children. To supply these teachers, there are only the Church of England Normal Schools at Carnarvon and Carmarthen, and that belonging to the British and Foreign School Society at Bangor. By the last report on these schools, published in the Minutes of the Committee of Council, which was in 1866-67, it appeared that there were only seven students in the Carnarvon College, and six in the Carmarthen in the second year of training, *i.e.* fitted to undertake schools at the ensuing Christmas. It is not stated how many of them are Welsh, but there is a later report by Mr. Fearon, Privy Council Inspector of British Schools on the Bangor Normal School for 1868-69, by which it appears that there were 12 second year students at that time in the college, of whom seven only spoke Welsh.

95. It is perfectly obvious that some vigorous efforts are required to increase the number of Welsh-speaking Normal students, or it will be quite impracticable to supply the great deficiency of educational appliances in Wales. The difficulties in the way of making education universal or compulsory in Wales will, in many localities, not come from any indisposition of the people to send their children to school, but from the paucity of trained teachers required to supply efficient instruction in the numerous educational gaps that now exist in the principality.

All this we humbly certify to Your Majesty.

Given under our hands and seals this 28th day of March 1870.

HUGH SEYMOUR TREMENHEERE.

2, Victoria Street, Westminster. EDWARD CARLETON TUFNELL.

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REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

REPORT on GLAMORGANSHIRE and BRECONSHIRE, by the Hon. E. B. PORTMAN.

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TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I REGRET that I have been unable, in consequence of the serious illness of my father, to complete at an earlier date the report on the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon, which I have now the honour to submit to you, and which will, I trust, reach you soon enough to be of some service to you in reporting the result of the inquiries which we have been carrying on under your instructions in Wales.

GLAMORGAN.

GLAMORGAN. M.

2. The districts of Glamorganshire which were pointed out to me as being mainly agricultural were (1), the Vale of Glamorgan, lying between Cardiff on the east and a point some few miles to the west of Bridgend on the west, and bounded on the north by the hills and mineral district; and (2), Gower, a district lying to the west and south-west of Swansea. I therefore commenced my inquiries in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, and visited most of the principal villages in the Vale, and some on the borders of the mineral districts. I attended a meeting of the Cowbridge Farmers' Club at which the leading agriculturists were present. I also visited Gower and the Vale of Neath.

Vale of Glamorgan.

3. In the Vale of Glamorgan the farms are of a fair size, and the class of occupiers is superior to that in many other parts of my district, and there is a considerable labouring population, which is supplemented in time of need at a cheap rate by the Irish living in Cardiff and in some of the villages to which they have gone in search of work and where they have in many instances settled.

4. In Peterston, which is near the hills, the farms are said to be small, averaging 50 or 60 acres, "and the farmers are for the most part men who have risen from the position of labourers. The sons "of such farmers work as labourers when grown up and married" (Evid. No. 8).

At Wenvoe many of the farms are very small, and similar evidence is given by Eagleton, the relieving officer of St. Nicholas, a district of the Cardiff union (No. 20) as to the holdings in his district.

5. Archdeacon Blosse, of Bridgend, at the western extremity of the Vale of Glamorgan, told me that he knew instances of men taking farms on a capital of 2*l.* an acre, of a sufficient size to afford employment for themselves and their families, these men having commenced life as labourers. It was also stated at a meeting of the Bridgend Board of Guardians, that the agricultural labourers very frequently became occupiers of land.

6. On the other hand, in the southern part of the Vale, the farms are larger, and that district was fairly represented at the Cowbridge Farmers' Club meeting by men of capital and position.

Wages.

7. The wages in this portion of my district are high, 12*s.* a week appears to be the lowest pay for an ordinary agricultural labourer. Mr. Akers, a large farmer, and Mr. Goddard, a land-agent (Nos. 6 and 7), put the wages at 12*s.* to 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week. At Llantrissant, where a large portion of the population is engaged in mining, wages in agriculture are for men 16*s.*, for a woman 9*s.*, and for a child 6*s.* a week. Mr. Eagleton (No. 20) gives them as 12*s.* and a house, up to 15*s.* for a man, 1*s.* a day for a woman, for boys in bird-keeping 3*s.* a week and food, for boys in service at 12 years old 2*l.* a year, board and lodging, with an annual increase; at 18 years of age from 14*l.* to 18*l.* a year. Rev. Parry Thomas (No. 20) states that the wages vary in winter and summer, being 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in the former, and 12*s.* to 15*s.* in the latter season, and in some cases with wheat at a fixed price.

Privileges.

8. We again come across "*privileges*" in addition to money payments; they are (1), daily board in the farmhouse; (2), house-rent free and potato ground; (3), right of buying butter and cheese at a fixed price, also, in some cases, corn. Mrs. Howard (No. 16), a labourer's wife says, that the wages of a regular man are per week 13*s.*, a lb. of butter at 1*s.*, and cheese at 6*d.* a lb., the rent of the cottage when attached to the farm being reckoned at 1*s.* a week. Mr. Jenkins, farmer at Penmark (No. 28), gives the wages at 11*s.* and 12*s.* a week and a house, and the privilege of buying wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, one lb. of butter a week at 1*s.*, and cheese at 6*d.* a lb.

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At Bridgend wages were said to be 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week (No. 32) for ordinary labourers, and Davies (No. 35, a stock-keeper, stated that he got 18*s.* a week, garden stuff from the farmer, and butter at a fixed price, "when there is any to spare." He also said that an ordinary labourer's pay was 15*s.* a week. M.

9. In Gower the farms are, as a rule, very small, and the difference between the labourer and the farmer is very slight. A farm labouring class scarcely exists; there are many men holding a few acres with their cottage, perhaps keeping a cow or two, and working only occasionally for other farmers. In this portion of the county there is a district of mountain common, which is devoted to sheep runs, the right of running sheep is attached to the lowland farms, the number of sheep being defined, and there being no exclusive right to any given number of acres on the common, but merely the joint right of pasturage. The people here are also employed in quarrying and in the oyster fisheries, and the small farmers, when not using their horse and cart for the purposes of the farm, are able to add to their income by "hauling" at the quarries. Gower.

The evidence of Mr. Clark, Mr. Beynon, and Mr. H. Evans (Nos. 40, 41, and 42), gives as good an idea of the state of this part of Glamorgan as can be obtained; they are themselves the representatives of the three different classes of occupiers, one farming largely and employing labour, another with a smaller farm employing a yearly farm servant and an occasional woman for pulling turnips, and for the rest of the work of the farm depending on his children; the third holding 50 acres, working the farm by himself and children, and employing extra labour at harvest time only.

10. In the Vale of Neath, again, the farms are for the most part small, and there are large tracts of sheep run on the hills let at 1*s.* to 2*s.* an acre. Here also the small farmers use their carts for hauling at the pits. I found two exceptionally large farms, one on the Gnoll estate of 1,000 acres, and another at Ynysarwed; in the latter, however, there was a large proportion of hill land. Vale of Neath.

11. In the Vale of Neath men's wages are 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week, with sometimes a house rent free, the demand for labour in the coal and other works being very great.

Women when employed in the fields usually get 1*s.* a day, children 6*d.* a day, sometimes with food besides.

Breconshire.

12. Before proceeding to discuss generally those points of the inquiry which refer equally to the two counties, I will put shortly before you the general condition of the agricultural classes in the county of Brecon, and the wages earned by the labourer. Breconshire.

In the neighbourhood of Brecon the farms are for the most part small, and the farmhouse contains not unfrequently all who regularly work upon the farm. The Rev. G. Williams (53) says, "This is a "thinly populated neighbourhood; on the hills on either side of the valley in which I live there are "wide commons; houses are few and far between. Many of the cottages are bad and overcrowded, "and indeed many of the farmhouses, especially in the hilly districts, have not sufficient accommodation "for decency."

13. The Rev. D. Parry (No. 54) of Devynock, a parish whose population is 1,798 to an acreage of 28,884, including extensive mountains, says that the majority of the labourers are farm servants living in their masters' houses. At Llywell, near Trecastle, still the same district, Rev. L. Price says, "The farmers of this district and parish, being chiefly small tenant farmers, do not employ labourers "but occasionally, as they are able, by the assistance of their children, and in some cases by that of a "man servant and female servants, to do the work necessary to be done on their farms during the "season."

The district above mentioned is under the mountain range on the western side of the county where there are some considerable flocks of sheep running on the hills. The valleys are narrow and dotted with numerous cottages and small homesteads well whitewashed, which present to the eye a very pleasant and clean appearance.

14. The farms in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Brecon, and on the north side, vary in size from 50 to 300 and 400 acres. The same may be said of the Llangorse district of the Brecon union.

15. The Valley of the Usk presents the same features; a few large and many small farmers, and a considerable tract of sheep run on the hill tops, and, with a few exceptions, not much labour employed by the farmers in addition to that of their own children.

16. As to the general condition of the agriculturists in the Builth district I will quote the words of the Rev. R. L. Venables (No. 82), "The farmers being of the same class with the labourers and inter-"marrying with them, do most of their own work assisted by their children, and where necessary by "young persons of both sexes living in the house. They live very frugally, making their profits "chiefly by cattle and sheep, especially sheep. There are sheep walks of immense extent on the hills "in the hundred of Builth. There are singularly few cottages independant of land. There are "very few labourers not occupying land." Builth.

17. In the neighbourhood of Hay, which is situated at the junction of the counties of Hereford, Radnor, and Brecon, the evidence of two of the principal farmers (No. 75) shows that there is a thinly populated hill district principally devoted to sheep runs, which are attached to the farms, and that some farmhouses are worse than the cottages, *being often without any partition in the sleeping rooms, except a bit of drapery.*

In short, the county of Brecon is a mountainous one with narrow valleys, and, with perhaps the exception of the northern side of the town of Brecon, it is more a pastoral than an arable district.

18. The wages in the immediate vicinity of Brecon are for a man 12*s.* a week, and for a woman 1*s.* a day, or 6*d.* and food. In the Devynock district "for a man living at home 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week and board "at the farmer's house." Wages.

19. In the Llangorse district, Mr. Price, relieving officer (No. 57), says they are 11*s.* and a house, or 12*s.* and pay rent, or 7*s.* and 8*s.* a week and board in the farmhouse, while living at home.

20. Mr. Downes, of Llandetty (No. 58), says wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and house rent free,

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M. food for a month in harvest, potatoes from half to one sack planted free of cost. I reckon it equal to 14*s.* a week through the year; women get 1*s.* a day.

21. At Cwmdû a man in constant employ gets 13*s.* a week and two to four pints of cider. Those living in the house get 15*l.* a year and board. Women get 1*s.* a day, or take stone picking by the load.

22. Mr. Andrew Doyle, who owns land at Llangenny near Crickhowell (No. 68), says the rate of wages for a regular man is 12*s.* a week, for a job-man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. The wages of boys living in the farmhouses vary according to age; from 11 to 14 years meat and from 3*l.* to 6*l.* a year. When boys of 12 to 15 years of age are employed in the fields they get 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day; women 1*s.* a day. *The earnings of a steady skilful labourer, such as a good hedger, would be about* 13*s. a week, not including cider, and* 20*s. for harvest.*

23. At Hay men receive 6*s.* and 7*s.* a week and board, and 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, including *privileges, e.g.*, house rent free, potato ground, wood, cider, and run of a pig. A woman gets 4*s.* a week for light work, and 1*s.* a day for machine work. A boy of 11 or 12 years of age gets 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. The lowest rate paid near Hay is 9*s.* a week.

24. In the Builth district wages for a man are 12*s.* a week, without maintenance; for a woman 6*s.* a week; for children 40*s.* a year and maintenance.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

25. The employment of women in agricultural work in Glamorganshire is very trifling; in Brecon there is perhaps more of it.

They are, according to the evidence of Mr. Price (No. 1), employed in weeding and trimming turnips by the piece. Mr. Lloyd, of Dinas, near Brecon (No. 51), says they are employed about four months in the year, including hay and harvest, and in his opinion *they would like to be employed more.* On the other hand, Mr. Price, relieving officer of the Llangorse district, and Mr. Downes, of Llandetty (Nos. 57 and 58), say that it is difficult to obtain the services of women, and that they are averse to field work. This appears also to be the case in the Hay district (Evid. No. 75).

26. I have no doubt that a casual observer passing through this part of Wales would say, How can this be when I see so many females at work in the fields? The answer is that in the majroity of such instances the women are the wives and daughters of small farmers working on their own land, or sometimes female servants hired by the year and living in the farmhouses who are occasionally employed for out-door work.

Sheep-milking.

27. There is a special employment of women in this district to which I would call your attention, viz., that of sheep-milking. Ann Rees (No. 13), the wife of an agricultural labourer, says, "I have "taken sheep-milking for a farmer; it lasts from May to the end of August. I got one-seventh of the "produce, at first one makes an 8 lb. cheese per week, but the weight decreases. The cheese is "worth 8*d.* a lb." The ewes are milked every morning and evening.

The Rev. Hanmer Morgan (No. 31) considers it a very unhealthy employment; many of his people complain of it as the cause of illness, especially of chronic rheumatism.

Effect of field work on women.

28. Let us now look once more at the opinions as to the effect of any field work on women. Mr. Gordon, of Tondû, thinks that the hours for married women should be so arranged as to admit of their giving attention to the family before leaving home in the morning, and of their leaving the field sufficiently early to prepare for the husband's return. "He had found that by letting them have a little "time in the evening, it generally resulted in their having happier houses" (No. 21).

The Rev. C. F. Wood, of Penmark (No. 21.), objects to the employment of women in the field, because their sense of propriety and delicacy thereby becomes blunted, and "we always find that the "woman who spends the most time in field work affords in proportion a less tidy and comfortable home "to her family."

Mr. John Garsed (No. 47), a large farmer who has paid much attention to the question of education for the agricultural labourer, considers the necessary exposure to inclement weather of those employed in turnip-cleaning is injurious to delicate children and *married women;* and he further says that young girls employed in the fields become totally unfitted for household work and to be mothers of families, their morals being decidedly lowered in tone by such work.

The Rev. H. Bevan (No. 69) is of opinion that field work makes women rough and coarse.

The Rev. H. Morgan (No. 31) gives similar testimony as to the evil effects of such work on females, married and unmarried.

Conclusion to be drawn from this evidence.

29. What conclusion is to be drawn from such evidence as the above, coming from the mouths of clergy and farmers? surely this, that field work is, to say the least of it, not a *good* thing for girls or for women. It is said, on the other hand, that field-workers are often very tidy in their homes. I am quite willing to grant it may be so, but I am sure that the *weight* of evidence which I have collected during the time I have been employed under this Commission goes to show that women are demoralised, so far as to be unfitted to a great degree for their proper domestic duties, by field work, and that their homes are less tidy and give less comfort to the husband than those of the women who do not work in the field.

Where men's wages are low you find women frequently compelled to work in the fields for the purpose of feeding and clothing the family, and experience shows that in these low-waged districts the homes of the labourers are ill-kept, let the cottage be as good as you like in structure. There is no time, no inclination, to keep things in good order when the heads of the family are at work all day in the field.

Arrangement of women's work.

Early return home, or piece-work.

30. If it must be that women are to work in the fields, then let the employers take the suggestion given in the speech of Mr. Gordon, of Tondû, and so arrange their hours for women, if employed by the day, as to admit of an early return to their homes, or, what would perhaps be better, let the work that can be done by women be given to them by the piece so that the industrious field worker may also be a tidy housewife.

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Employment of Children.

Employment of Children.

31. The employment of children in my district is not much before the age of 10 years, with the exception of bird-keeping and minding cattle, both of which occupations are considered suitable to boys of 8 years, sometimes even of 6 years (vide Evid. 25 & 26). One, James Austin (No. 25), went out bird-keeping at 6 years old; was out from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and got 6*d.* a day.

Bird-keeping not light work.

32. This "bird keeping" is always spoken of by employers of labour as if it was very light work. I very much doubt that position being a true one. What are the facts as a rule? That a child of 6 to 8 years of age is sent out into the fields at daylight in wet or fine weather; there to remain till dark marching up and down the field that requires protection (*i.e.*, if he does his duty to his employer). His food is rarely found for him by the farmer, in which case it might be more nourishing than the allowance from the family cupboard; his clothes are not of the best, and must be dried as best may be before use the next morning. It seems to me that such employment is real hard work, totally unfitted for boys of a tender age, and most likely to destroy their health and sow the seeds of many a complaint in after life. Let me ask the employers of labour why this work should not be done by old men? It seems to be the custom in the Llangorse district of the Brecon union (Evid. No. 57). Such a change might beneficially affect the rates.

Children are also occasionally employed for stone-picking for a few weeks in the year.

Suggestions as to limit of age.

33. On the question of placing restrictions by law on the age at which children should be employed in farm work, the Cowbridge Farmers' Club unanimously resolved that no person should be employed in agriculture under the age of 10 years, and that girls and unmarried women under 18 years of age should not be employed in agricultural labour.

The Bridgend Board of Guardians hesitated between 9 and 10 as the proper age.

The general opinion is that 10 years is the lowest age at which boys should begin work, and that, except for bird-keeping and a few occasional jobs, they are not of much service to the farmer before the age of 12. There does not appear to be any reason for supposing that in these counties any hardship would be inflicted on the labouring class by such a limit, except in occasional cases of large and young families, the rate of wages being higher than in many other districts I have visited.

Education.

Education, state of.

34. The state of education generally throughout my district can hardly be said to be entirely satisfactory, but great progress appears to have been made during the last few years, not only in regard to the number of good schools, but also in the increased desire manifested by the parents of the labouring classes to obtain for their children a fair amount of education.

Mr. Evan David, Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians (No. 2), is of opinion that the children of their working classes, more particularly of the native population, are not irregular in their attendance at school.

Mr. Garsed (No. 1), speaking of the Vale of Glamorgan, says the state of education is not what it ought to be, chiefly in consequence of neglect by the parents, sometimes from poverty, and in some instances from a want of schools, though *that cause is rapidly disappearing.*

Mr. Long (No. 45) thinks that parents do not value education sufficiently, while the Vicar of Resolven (No. 46), also in the Vale of Neath, says the school attendance in his parish is, under favourable circumstances, pretty regular, and that the Welsh are beginning to appreciate education, and are anxious to secure good teachers for the schools.

Mr. Probert (No. 50), formerly manager of a British school, testifies that the supply of schools near Brecon is good, and that the people are far more careful about their children's education than formerly, but he adds that in cases of large families the parents cannot afford to pay for the schooling.

35. The valleys of Breconshire are, as a rule, well supplied with schools, but on the mountains and among the sheep runs there is but little chance of schooling for the children, on account of the long distances to any school.

Irregular attendance, causes of.

36. Irregularity of attendance is as usual a common complaint on the part of school teachers, and is attributed to various causes: work in the fields, or potatoing in the cottage garden, the supposed necessity of the small earnings derived from occasional work, not unfrequently the need of the bigger child to take care of the little ones when mother is in the fields. The irregularity is greater after 9 years of age than before, and is far more marked amongst the small farmer class than in the case of the labourer.

Llanbeder school.

37. I cannot perhaps give a better instance of the educational state, past and present, of an outlying and extensive hill parish than that of Llanbeder, near Crickhowell, in Breconshire.

The evidence of the schoolmistress (No. 70) is as follows:—"I have been here 11 years. From "November to April in the first year I was here the average attendance was 4, and in summer no "children came for some time. The average attendance is now 28, and the highest number on the "books has been 56." She goes on to say that the distance to school is often very great, and that the little children cannot come when the older ones are at work as they cannot be trusted to go so far alone. This school is attended by the children of farmers and labourers. The boys seem to be absent from school from the end of March till November, and "the girls are quite as irregular in their "attendance as the boys; they work on their parents' farms, few farmers employing any labour besides "that of their own children."

This schoolmistress complains of the absence of any attempt to keep up learning at home, and thinks that 100 attendances in the year might be obtained, though she does not approve of a compulsory system.

38. As I have already shown from the evidenceof the Rev. R. L. Venables and others, the line of demarcation between the farmer and labourer in these districts of hill and narrow valley can hardly be discerned, and the cause of education must of necessity suffer as long as there is this urgent need of the work of all the members of the family on the farm, without regard to age, in consequence of the inability to hire labour.

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M.

Application of principles of Factory Acts and other remedial measures.

39. I will now call your attention to some opinions on the question of the application of the principles of the Factory Acts to agricultural labour and other suggestions for the improvement of the system of education. Mr. Evan David, Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians (No. 2), is in favour of the non-employment of children under 14 years of age, unless they produce certificates obtained from duly authorized schoolmasters and others that they can read and write with facility, such certificates to be available for six months only. He goes on to say "These rudimentary acquirements "(of reading and writing) can be better attained and kept up by giving the parents of children a "pecuniary interest in the matter than by compelling children to a certain number of days yearly in "schools."

40. Rev. C. R. Knight (No. 37) is in favour of an enactment requiring the production of a certificate every six months, showing an amount of school attendance equal to 300 times in the year.

41. Mr. Tritton, schoolmaster at Llantrithyd, thinks 150 attendances could be obtained from boys of 13 and 14 years of age during the winter.

42. The Rev. C. Wood (No. 21) is in favour of a half-day system, the morning and evening attendance to be varied week by week.

43. Rev. C. Lewellen (No. 38) thinks education to be efficacious must be continuous, and does not approve of the application of the principles of the Factory Acts.

Success of certificates in coal pits.

44. The Rev. D. Griffiths, of Resolven, &c., in the Vale of Neath (No. 46), bears witness to the successful working of the certificate system in the coal pits, and desires its extension to agricultural labour.

45. Mr. Garsed (No. 18) is also in favour of the requirement of a certificate of school attendance during the six months previous to hiring, and wishes the penalty to be imposed on any person employing a boy without such certificate.

46. Mr. Glass (No. 44) sub-agent for a large estate in Glamorganshire, does not think farmers would appreciate such a certificate or *care to demand it* when the lads came to be hired.

Difficulties of organising system of certificates.

47. It may perhaps be not amiss to refer once more to the difficulties of organization of any such system of certificates in the rural districts. I have no doubt that if the production of the certificate were *really* insisted on by every employer of labour it would be a great incentive to the parents to take more heed for the education of their children, but the difficulty is to secure this end. I expressed an opinion in a former Report that register offices might be established in the market towns where the names of farm servants could be registered and characters from former masters obtained, and that at such offices, opposite the name of every male or female seeking employment, should be recorded the fact of the certificate of school attendance having been duly obtained, and I still believe that in theory the plan is good. Practically I do not believe the certificate system will work in agricultural districts. Great efforts have been made from time to time in Yorkshire to get rid of hiring fairs and substitute register offices, but with limited success. The evidence of a Hants farmer on the subject of certificates was not encouraging. Now we have an agent in Wales, well acquainted with the farmers, saying that they would not care to demand them; and if such is the case, I am quite sure that the difficulty of enforcing any such system will be enormous, unless the country is flooded with inspectors and informers.

Committee of Council Regulations as to grants in aid, need of revision.

48. I would again call your attention to the great benefit that would accrue to the cause of education in the rural districts from an alteration in the present regulations of the Committee of Council in the matter of grants in aid. I would refer you to Nos. 30, 32, 46, 53, in the appendix as further evidence of the desirability of grants being given for results after due inspection, and regardless of the question of the teacher being certificated or not. I will refrain from now adding to the remarks I have made in two former Reports on this subject, and can only hope that in the course of the discussion on the forthcoming Education Bill, this point will receive that consideration which in the opinion of so many workers in the cause of education in rural parishes it deserves.

Cottages.

Cottages.

49. The cottages are, as a rule, throughout my district fairly good, and are certainly very much more tidy and clean inside and outside than many it has been my fate to visit. There is a great and laudable devotion to *whitewash* on the part of the Welsh, which gives a most pleasing appearance of cleanliness.

There are, however, and there must be in every county, certain villages where the dwellings are bad. Looking through the evidence I find that at Peterston there is reason to complain, and that the cause is stated to be the absence of care on the part of the owner of the property. "No Irish property can "present more wretched consequences of absenteeism than this. The only consideration the parish "receives from the owners of property is the regular collection of rents" (Evid. No. 8).

Want of bedroom accommodation.

50. There is not always sufficient sleeping accommodation in the cottages; it is not so much the number of dwellers in the house that is objectionable as the want of privacy in the sleeping room; that room being frequently without partition or even a bit of drapery to separate the sexes, or the married from the unmarried. Hence comes, according to the evidence, much immorality. In the parish of St. Athan (No. 31) there are 11 cottages that have only *one room for all purposes*, and the cottages generally are there said to be crowded.

Rent.

51. The rent varies from 1*s.* a week to 3*l.* and 4*l.* a year, sometimes with rates to pay besides.

Gardens not cared for in Builth.

52. There is usually a garden attached to the cottage, but it is curious to note that in the hundred of Builth, according to the evidence of the Rev. R. L. Venables (No. 82), and of the Relieving Officer (No. 80), the people seem to take little pleasure or interest in their gardens, and in some instances do not even cultivate them.

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53. Many of the cottages are attached to the farms, and are then reckoned among "the privileges" at 1*s.* a week. It seems that the farmers are anxious for improved cottages, as to use the words of Mr. Wright (No. 1), *they "want to get respectable men to settle down in their farms,* and his experience was "that they left because they had not comfortable homes." Mr. Garsed, again (No. 47), says that the tenant would gladly pay a per-centage on the outlay for cottages, *as the workman would be located where he was wanted.* M. Cottages attached to farms

54. It is said that the savings banks are much used by the labourers, with whom cottage building is a most favourite investment, and judging by the rents paid for cottages in the outskirts of Bridgend, a good return is obtained for the outlay (vide Evid. No. 34). Archdeacon Blosse, who was at one time actuary for the savings bank there, knew many instances of labourers being worth 100*l.* and upwards. At Crickhowell, in Breconshire, we hear that very few farm lads are depositors, and not above 12 agricultural labourers (Evid. 72). Savings.

55. Many of these men become the occupiers of small farms. In the hilly parts of Glamorganshire, in Gower, and throughout the greater part of Breconshire, the small occupiers abound. The evidence certainly tends to show that these small farms are by no means so desirable as many people are inclined to think. It may be that the existence of small holdings and the consequent possibility of possession on some future day is an incentive to the labourer to be prudent, and to endeavour to raise himself to the rank of a farmer; when he has done so let us look at his condition, as shown in these counties. He commences with a capital of 1*l.* or 2*l.* per acre. His house is often far worse than a labourer's cottage, there is but little privacy and little regard for decency in the arrangement of the sleeping accommodation. He lives from hand to mouth; he is too poor to pay for any labour, and is consequently obliged to keep all his children at home as soon as their little hands can do any work at all; and so neglects their education. A bad season comes, and he is forced to mortgage his crops; he gradually gets into the hands of the village attorney. If he has a freehold it passes to the man of capital; if he only holds a lease the land becomes impoverished, and is returned to the owner in a thoroughly bad state. And during the bad time, if it comes, he is in this respect worse off than the labourer, that he does not get parish relief or the benefit of medical aid in case of sickness. Small farms not an unmixed good

This is a state of things that is very common, and I have alluded to it in order to show that the existence of small holdings is not an unmixed good; on the other hand, there is no doubt that many individuals have risen and have prospered in consequence of being able to "get a bit of land" when they had saved "a bit of money." But looking at the class from an educational point of view I should say that it is decidedly a bar to progress, and I should not advocate an extension of the system, believing, as I do, that a labourer earning good wages, with a sufficient garden attached to his cottage, the opportunity of renting an allotment and of obtaining a paddock or a run for a cow or two, is far better off than those hand-to-mouth farmers who rear their children in ignorance, and is moreover a more valuable member of the body politic.

56. There is only one other point to which I need allude, and that is the existence of hiring fairs in these counties; and I do so for the purpose of calling your attention to some portions of the evidence in reference to them. Mr. Glass (No. 44) says that men and women are hired in open street at Neath, and that register offices do not exist. Hiring fairs.

The Rev. G. Williams (No. 53) says "The hiring or mop fairs are a fruitful source of evil; as a rule, all farm servants are hired at these fairs; even if the servants intend to keep their places they go to the fair and are hired afresh. I believe these fairs have a very demoralising effect in many ways, and *it would be a great benefit to the country if they could be abolished.*"

Mr. Smith, relieving officer, Devynock (No. 55) says the lads and girls stand in the open air to be hired; if not hired the first day they go home and can return the next day, or on any following Saturday. He had not observed much evil resulting from these fairs.

Mr. D. Downes (No. 58) says "I should prefer the fairs being done away with, and a character given "to the servants from their former places. Register offices might be substitued for the present "system."

These hirings are in May and November, and fairs are held at Brecon, Crickhowell, Hay, Builth, Trecastle, and Neath, and doubtless at other towns of which I did not hear. Another complaint is that at the time of these fairs the homes of the labourers are very much overcrowded, and it seems that here, as well as in Yorkshire and other counties, there is a desire to get rid of this system as being the cause of much evil and immorality.

56. I beg now to express my thanks to all those in my district, who either gave or enabled me to obtain the desired information, for their kindness and assistance, and I would, at the same time, tender to you my very best thanks for the uniform kindness I have received at your hands during the period of my connexion with the Commission, and assure you that it is with deep regret that I find myself compelled by circumstances to relinquish my share in the work in Scotland.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
EDWIN B. PORTMAN.

Bryanston,
February 8, 1870.

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REPORT by Mr. F. H. NORMAN on ANGLESEA, CARNARVON, DENBIGH, and FLINT.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

N. 1. I have now the honour of submitting to you my Report upon the employment of women, young persons, and children in agriculture in the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint, which I visited in obedience to your instructions during portions of the months of September and October last.

Report applies to peculiarities only. 2. When I received your instructions to examine into the condition of the agricultural population in these counties, I understood it to be your wish that my report upon them should be limited to those points in which I might find upon inquiry that the condition of the agricultural population resident there differed from the condition of the agricultural population in the English counties, on which I had already reported.

3. I have carefully borne these instructions in mind, and have found that the points in which the Welsh counties assigned to me differ from the English counties which I had previously visited are points in which the contrast is rather in favour of the Welsh counties; so that, if it should be thought undesirable to apply the Factory Acts to those engaged in agriculture in the English counties upon which I have already reported, it would in my opinion be still less desirable to apply them to the Welsh counties to which this report refers.

4. This being the general result of my inquiries, I have thought it sufficient to have but a small body of evidence printed, and hope to be able to compress the observations I have to make upon that evidence into a very short Report.

General condition of district. 5. The general condition of these counties as regards acreage and the numbers of labourers, both male and female, employed in agriculture may be gathered from the following Table:—

County.	Acres.	Population.		Labourers employed in Agriculture.							
				1851.				1861.			
				Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
		1851.	1861.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.
Anglesea	193,453	57,327	54,609	1,793	1,999	1,169	25	961	2,006	196	26
Carnarvon	370,273	87,870	95,694	3,034	3,440	1,957	62	2,725	3,668	479	54
Denbigh	386,052	92,583	100,778	3,442	5,184	2,300	73	2,257	5,942	1,211	59
Flint	184,905	68,156	69,737	763	1,067	502	10	695	883	134	19
Total	1,134,683	305,936	320,818	9,032	11,690	5,928	170	6,638	12,499	2,020	158

Shepherds not included in this table.

6. It appears from this Table that these counties are very thinly populated. The counties of Carnarvon and Denbigh contain about one inhabitant to every 4 acres; Anglesea, about one to every 3½ acres; and Flint, rather more than one to every 3 acres. One of the most thinly populated counties in England is Herefordshire, which contains about one inhabitant to every 4⅓ acres. Between the years 1851 and 1861 the population increased in all the counties except Anglesea, the only county in which there is not a large population of miners or quarrymen. The number of in-door farm servants, both male and female,

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decreased in every county, and the total number of out-door male farm labourers increased, and of females decreased. N.

7. The total area of these counties is very large, but it must be recollected that extensive tracts of them consist of barren rock or mountain, and that the extent actually under cultivation is but little more than half the total area; this will appear from the following Table which I have extracted from the Agricultural Returns of Great Britain for 1868. This Table shows that the total acreage of crops of all kinds, bare fallow, and grass, in these four counties is about equal to that of Shropshire (660,240 acres), and considerably less than that of Wiltshire (710,908 acres):— Large districts uncultivated.

County.	Total Acreage.	Total Acreage under all kinds of Crops, Bare Fallow, and Grass.	Per-centage of Corn Crops to Total Acreage under all kinds of Crops, Bare Fallow, and Grass.
Anglesea - -	193,453	137,721	24·3
Carnarvon -	370,273	172,632	14·7
Denbigh - -	386,052	239,076	29·0
Flint - -	184,905	116,535	31·7
Total - -	1,134,683	665,964	

8. Before proceeding to the details of this Report, it will be convenient to refer to a few of the peculiar features which these counties respectively exhibit.

The county of Anglesea consists of low undulating table-land, somewhat dreary and uninteresting in appearance. There is a considerable extent of bog and marsh in the island, but except on the shores of the Menai Straits it contains scarcely any wood, and there are but few hedges or fences between the fields. From the nature of its position it is exposed to the full fury of the storms which sweep across the Atlantic, and although the mountains of Carnarvonshire attract most of the rain, the storms of wind which rush across the island of Anglesea are very severe, and the vegetation in consequence bears a somewhat stunted and dwarfed appearance. The climate is well suited to the breeding of cattle; it favours the growth of root crops, but of the corn crops grown about two-thirds consist of oats. Peculiar features of Anglesea.

9. The county of Carnarvon is distinguished rather for its mineral than for its agricultural products; it consists mainly of barren mountains which are useless except as sheep walks, and which leave but a small portion of the whole county to be devoted to tillage. This portion consists of a belt of low land which separates the mountains from the sea, the lower portions of the valleys, and that part of the county which lies to the west of the Carnarvon and Tremadoc Railway, and which is called Lleyn. Carnarvonshire.

The great bulk of the population of this county is dependent upon its mineral productions for a livelihood; these consist of slate quarries at Llanberris and in the neighbourhood of Bangor, and stone quarries at Penmaen Mawr, near Conway. I was told that the slate quarries belonging to Lord Penrhyn in the neighbourhood of Bangor provide subsistence for a population numbering nearly 11,000. The other quarries in the county are also very extensive. The employment of so much labour in the quarries must, of course, have a considerable indirect effect upon the supply of agricultural labour. Occupation can always be obtained in the quarries by almost any number of superfluous labourers for whom work in the fields cannot be found.

In consequence of the mountainous character of this county and of the severity of its climate but little corn is grown. It appears from the agricultural returns that the per-centage of corn crops to the total acreage under all kinds of crops amount to only 14·7 (the average for the whole of England being 32·5), and of this the greater part is oats. The mountains are let in extensive tracts as sheep walks, in some cases to individual farmers, and in other cases the right of pasturage in a particular district is let as appurtenant to a certain number of farms; but under any circumstances the labour to be done in the mountains is insignificant and the population residing in the mountains very small.

10. The portion of Denbighshire best adapted for agricultural purposes is the Vale of Clwyd, which consists of a considerable extent of very fertile land, and is chiefly celebrated for the production of cheese and butter. Between this valley and the borders of Carnarvonshire lies a mountainous district of considerable elevation, but less lofty than the mountains of Carnarvonshire. The whole of this district is devoted to agriculture. In that part of Denbighshire situated in the neighbourhood of Wrexham and Ruabon an extensive coal field exists, which has attracted a large mining population. The proportion of corn grown, though considerably larger than that of either Anglesea or Carnarvonshire, is less than the general average of England; and of that which is grown, oats forms the principal crop. Denbighshire.

11. Flintshire presents features more similar to those of England than any other county I visited in Wales. The only mountains of any importance are the Clwydian Hills, which for a considerable distance separate Flintshire from Denbighshire. The amount of coal produced in this county, although not nearly equal to that produced in Denbighshire, is, considering the acreage and population of the county, very large. In addition to coal, lead is found in considerable quantities. The climate is less severe than that of the other three counties I have before described, and in it alone the production of wheat exceeds that of any other corn crop. Flintshire.

The hundred of Maelor, which is separated from the rest of Flintshire by a portion of Denbighshire, differs from the other parts of the county in containing no minerals, but forms a rich agricultural district. It contains many dairy farms, and produces cheese of a fine quality.

12. The size of the farms is, as a general rule, smaller in Wales than in any English county I have visited. According to the agricultural returns for 1868, the average extent of the land held by each occupier was, in Anglesea 40 acres, in Carnarvonshire 34, in Denbighshire 42, and in Flintshire 30; for Size of farms.

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N.

England the average was 60. A few large farms are to be found in every county; but the consolidation of small farms is not going on as rapidly as appears to be the case in England. In fact, as a general rule, on the death of a tenant, no matter how small the farm is, the landlord permits another member of the family of the deceased tenant (should the family contain a suitable person) to continue in occupation of the farm. I was told by a large landowner that he had a tenant whose family had occupied a farm of about 50 acres for 200 years, without ever having had a lease. The labour on the small farms is generally done by the farmer and his family, in some cases without any hired labour; occasionally the labour is hired for the summer months only (Evid. 32).

Labour employed.

Mode and period of hiring.

13. Where labourers are employed for hire they are usually hired by the year in May and November, and are provided with board and lodging by the farmers. Where extra men are employed they are hired by the week, and are generally fed by the farmer, but they sleep at home. As a general rule the larger farmers hire more men by the week and board and lodge fewer than the smaller farmers.

Wages.

14. The ordinary wages for a man who is hired by the week are, in Anglesea 11*s.* or 12*s.* (Evid. 3, 6, 7), in Carnarvonshire and Denbighshire and Flintshire 12*s.* to 14*s* (Evid. 13, 19, 20, 23, 27, 30, 32), and occasionally in the neighbourhood of the mines and quarries of Carnarvonshire and Flintshire as much as 15*s.* (Evid. 9, 39). The men who are hired by the year and boarded get from 18*l.* to 24*l.* a year besides their board and lodging (Evid. 6, 9, 12, 30, 32). In one instance I found as much as 30*l.* a year being paid; but this was quite exceptional (Evid. 13). A less efficient man gets about 16*l.* or 18*l.* a year. If a labourer is married and sleeps in his own cottage he receives about 7*s.* a week and his board.

Extra harvest men.

During the harvest week it is customary to make a fresh bargain each week with the extra men that are hired. As instances of the amount paid for this work I may mention the following cases:—Mr. J. Dawson, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, Talacre, says, "Last harvest my wages amounted to 14*s.*, "15*s.*, 17*s.*, 17*s.*, and 13*s.* 6*d.* a week for the five harvest weeks, besides 5*s.* a week extra for 'meat,' "which some of the farmers allow, but I prefer to pay in money." (Evid. 41.) And David Davies, foreman to Mr. Sandbach, at Llangerniew, in Denbighshire, says,—

"This year one week the wages were 1*l.* 1*s.* and the meat, and 18*s.*, 16*s.*, 12*s.*, and 9*s.*, for the other weeks. They have not been as high as that for 20 years. The farmers and labourers fix the amount between, and then cry it out in the street. They don't earn any extra money by piece-work at other times of the year, except for special operations, such as draining." (Evid. 25.)

No clear line of separation between farmers and labourers.

15. In one point the condition of the agricultural labourer in Wales is different from that of the same class in England. In England there is a clear and well-defined line between the labourer and the farmer. In Wales this line is almost absent. In most parts of England the chance of the labourer becoming a farmer is very remote. In Wales, not only is the probability of this change taking place very great, but in many cases the labourer actually is a small farmer.

Mr. R. Lloyd Edwards, of Nanhoran, Carnarvonshire, who farms 320 acres of his own land, told me that all his labourers were farmers, and that he always let land, varying from six to about 15 acres, with his cottages. He adds, "the occupiers generally keep one or two cows, grow a little "corn and potatoes; they occasionally have to leave their work for a day to work on their own land, "but not often enough to destroy their usefulness as farm labourers. The ploughing on these small "holdings is done either by men who go about making a living by letting out ploughs and horses, or "else two men, each of whom keeps a horse, join together and plough one another's land. A regular "labourer ought not to have more than two or three acres of land. They can keep a cow and pig "on that. The smallest amount of land which a farmer can live and do well upon is 40 or 50 acres." (Evid. 13, *see too* Evid. 14 and 32.)

Condition of the small farmers.

16. The opinion that men who farm less than 40 or 50 acres are worse off than labourers is very generally entertained. When their pecuniary condition is critically examined it may be so, but there can be no question that the small farmers very much prefer their position to that of labourers, on account of its independence. As stated by Mr. Tench, "In comparing their condition with that of "labourers, the fact that they are under less control must be taken into consideration, and the price "at which they value this independence must be set off against the possibly rather better living of "the labourer." (Evid. 42.)

Food.

17. In physical appearance the Welsh will compare favourably with the English, or at any rate with the inhabitants of the counties with which I am acquainted (I am not acquainted with the North of England). They are a muscular and robust race, and capable of undergoing great labour. This is probably due, in a great measure, to the superior quality of their diet, when compared with that of the English labourer. This appears clear from the Report of Dr. Edward Smith on the food of the poorer labouring classes, published in the Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council. Dr. Smith says (pages 267–271), that he found wheaten flour used by all whom he examined in Anglesea and North Wales; in almost all cases it was white flour of moderate quality, but in a few cases it was brown, from the presence of sharps, and not from the large husks or bran; oatmeal was used, but to a rather less, and barley to a very small extent. Potatoes and green vegetables are universally consumed; the average quantity consumed in Anglesea was found by Dr. Smith to be 16½ lbs., and in North Wales it was 4 lbs. per adult weekly. Meat or bacon was eaten to a small extent by every family in Anglesea and North Wales. The amount consumed per adult weekly was found to be 10¾ oz. in Anglesea, and 15¼ in North Wales. Only a small portion (2½ oz. per adult weekly) was butchers' meat, and the remainder was found to be either bacon, or meat killed in winter, and salted for use in the following summer. The one article in which the Welsh compares most favourably with the English diet is that of milk. Milk was found by Dr. Smith "to be used in every case in Anglesea "and North Wales; 83 per cent. of families examined obtained buttermilk, 53 per cent. skim milk, "6 per cent. new milk." Buttermilk is usually supplied by all farmers to their labourers. A labourer frequently has the privilege of taking home some to his family, or, if he cannot do this, and does not possess a cow himself, he can, as a general rule, purchase it at a very low price from some neighbour who does keep a cow. The general result of this diet was found by Dr. Smith to be "that the quantity of "carbon and nitrogen contained in the food of each computed adult was, in Anglesea, 60,784 grains of

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"carbon 2,521 grains of nitrogen; and in North Wales, 45,613 grains of carbon and 1,765 grains of "nitrogen weekly." The quantity consumed by an average agricultural labourer in England is 40,673 grains of carbon and 1,594 grains of nitrogen. I endeavoured to ascertain whether this nutritious diet produced a corresponding increase in the powers of work among Welshmen as compared to Englishmen. I found that it was impossible to get satisfactory information upon this point, owing to my inability to find any standard of work, common to both English and Welsh, by which to measure their respective powers.

Language. Welsh generally spoken.

18. I found that in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire the Welsh language is universally spoken by all persons of full age. It is quite the exception to find anybody over the age of 25 or 30 who can speak English. The population under that age have been brought up since education has been improved; but of these many who profess to speak English can only do so mechanically, and are quite incapable of carrying on a sustained conversation in that language.

Increased desire to learn English.

In Denbighshire the English language is more generally understood, while in Flintshire there appear to be few persons who cannot speak it. I may add that there is a very general desire among parents at present to have their children taught English, because they are aware that a knowledge of the English language is indispensable for their advancement, whatever may be the path of life which they select.

Employment of women and girls.

19. Women and girls are certainly employed less in these counties than in any county which I have visited in England. They are employed a little to feed the pigs or to milk, besides the ordinary occupation of planting and getting up potatoes, weeding, stone-picking, and a little haymaking; but I am inclined to think that even in these occupations they are less employed in these counties than is usual in England.

In support of this point I may refer to the following evidence:—

The Rev. D. Rowlands, a native of Anglesea, and a gentleman thoroughly well acquainted with North Wales, says,—

"Women are not employed at all in agriculture in North Wales, except very occasionally in hay and corn harvest." (Evid. 1.)

Mr. John Williams, of Treffos, and the Rev. J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, Anglesea, say,—

"Women are employed very slightly in planting potatoes, and a little in the hay and corn harvest." (Evid. 6.)

The Rev. J. W. Ellis, of Llanaelhaiarn, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"Women are scarcely ever employed except for domestic purposes. They generally feed the pigs, milk, plant potatoes, and make hay." (Evid. 12.)

The Venerable Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"Women are not employed in agricultural labour. It is difficult to get women to weed gardens or to raise potatoes." (Evid. 18.)

Mr. W. M. Clarke, agent to Mr. Hughes, of Kinmel, says,—

"Very few women have been employed in out-of-door work during the last 15 or 20 years, but they were more extensively employed formerly. The turnips were formerly weeded and hay made chiefly by women, but it is not so now." (Evid. 23.)

Mr. H. R. Hughes, of Ystrad, Denbigh, says,—

"Women are a good deal employed at certain times of the year. In spring they are employed in weeding, and occasionally in some other small job, as assisting to thrash or sow. They are also employed in setting and raising potatoes, and in hay and harvest. There is very little for them to do after the potatoes are raised. They occasionally assist to thrash during winter, but do nothing else." (Evid. 27.)

Mr. J. Scott Bankes, of Loughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire, says,—

"There is no regular employment for women; in fact the women are hardly ever employed by the farmers at all." (Evid. 39.)

Mr. J. Dawson, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, at Talacre, Flintshire, says,—

"Just here no women are employed, but towards Rhyl on one side, and Holywell on the other, some of the farmers do employ some few occasionally; never in winter." (Evid. 41.)

The evidence here quoted, all of which proceeds from reliable witnesses residing in the various parts of the district assigned to me, is, I think, quite sufficient to prove that the extent to which women are employed in agriculture is on the whole insignificant. I at one time entertained an impression that the wives and daughters of the small farmers worked to a greater extent than that above described, but on examination this impression appeared to be without foundation.

Women's wages.

20. The ordinary wage for a woman when she does work is 1s. a day. (Evid. 27, 40, 41.)

Effect of field work on women.

21. I have stated in my former Reports that I do not consider that the field work performed by women in England is necessarily the cause of physical injury to them. There is nothing peculiar in the nature of the field work upon which women are employed in Wales as compared with England; it follows, therefore, from the diminished extent to which they are employed that they are less likely to be injured by the work they do in the former country than in the latter.

It was never suggested to me that the field work done by women in Wales is ever the cause of physical injury to them.

Employment of boys.

22. Boys are not generally employed continuously until they are old enough to obtain places in farm-houses. This age generally varies from 12 to 15 (Evid. 1, 6, 9, 12, 13, 21, 23, 25, 32, 42); from that age upwards they assist generally in all the operations of the farm. Little boys and sometimes girls are occasionally employed for a few weeks in thinning turnips, in planting or gathering potatoes, or collecting stones. (Evid. 3, 6, 41.)

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N. At Llangerniew, in Denbighshire, there is so great a demand for young children to weed turnips during the months of June and July that the school holydays are fixed during these months, in order to permit the children to go to work; but at no other place did I find them so generally employed for this purpose.

Not employed to drive plough. 23. It is the universal practice to plough with two horses and reins, so that ploughboys are not required; nor are young boys ever employed with horses. The occupation therefore which, according to my experience, gives more employment to young boys in England than any other, does not exist in Wales.

Private gangs. 24. I met with one or two instances of private gangs of women and children being employed; thus on Sir R. Bulkeley's home farm, and on three or four other large farms in the neighbourhood of Beaumaris, private gangs are employed in the summer months to collect weeds, spread manure, single and hoe turnips, and cut thistles (Evid. 7), or sometimes a man will contract to thin turnips, and bring some children to assist him (Evid. 6); but this mode of employing labour is uncommon, and does not appear to me to require to be regulated by law. The observations I have made upon the employment of private gangs in my former reports will apply equally to the private gangs employed in my district of Wales.

Difficulty of comparing education in Wales and England. 25. There is some difficulty in comparing the state of education amongst the Welsh population with that among the English. The main object which the parents of Welsh children have in view in sending them to school is to have them taught English. The children, therefore, in Wales have to begin by learning a foreign language, which in most cases they are totally ignorant of up to the time of attending school. The Welsh language is only used in the schools for the purpose of teaching the children English, and the use of it is discontinued after the children can understand English. The facility with which the Welsh children acquire the English language has often been pointed out to me as a remarkable proof of the intelligence of the Welsh. I met with one school-master in a remote parish in Denbighshire who told me he could scarcely speak Welsh; his wife, however, who taught the lower classes, could speak it well. (Evid. 26.)

Age of leaving school, and proficiency. 26. As a general rule the children remain at school in the counties to which this Report refers up to an age varying between 12 and 14 (Evid. 15, 17, 22, 26, 29, 37, 38). In two cases the age was placed as low as from 10 to 12 (Evid. 1, 34). Those who attend regularly can generally pass the fourth standard when they leave (Evid. 17, 26, and 37), but some only the third. This result is tolerably satisfactory and certainly more satisfactory than the result attained in most of the districts in England with which I am acquainted.*

School accommodation sometimes insufficient. 27. It must not, however, be supposed that the whole population attain the proficiency here described. Districts were pointed out to me where the school accommodation was insufficient (Evid. 1), and complaints were frequently made of the indifference of the parents (Evid. 1, 3, 5, 9, 31). To these causes the defective state of education (where it is defective) is mainly due. The observations and recommendations which I have made in my last Report as to the measures which should be adopted for the purpose of encouraging the building of schools and the supply of teachers will apply to the counties to which this Report refers, as well as to the counties for which they were originally intended. (Second Report, I., sections 82–89.).†

* As one test of the state of education in these counties, I subjoin a Table showing the proportion of persons who on their marriage signed the register with marks. These figures are compiled from the 13th Annual Report of the Registrar General (Abstract for 1867).

County.	Total Number of Persons Married.	Number of Persons who Signed by Mark.			Per-centage of Persons who Signed by Mark to Total Married.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
Anglesea - -	416	56	97	153	·36
Carnarvon - -	1,594	207	339	546	·34
Denbigh - -	1,594	308	359	667	·41
Flint - - -	486	106	111	217	·44
England - -	358,308	37,879	51,606	89,485	·24

† Although it is impossible to estimate accurately the sufficiency of the school accommodation, the information recently collected by the National Society is very valuable upon this point. I have extracted the following tables from the "Statistics of Church of England Schools for the Poor in England and Wales, for the year 1866 and 1867."

Parishes (in Counties) without Schools, but supplied with Education in adjoining parishes.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	3	3	3	5	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	6	7	1	0	0	1	0
Denbigh - - -	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Parishes (with Populations) destitute either of separate or convenient adjoining Schools.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	0	0	4	2	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
Denbigh - - -	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

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Certificates of proficiency.

If this system applied to Wales, age should be over 14.

Early labour no obstacle to education.

28. On one point, however, the recommendations I made with reference to English schools are not applicable to Wales. In my last report I recommended that it should be made illegal to employ children under 14 years of age in agriculture unless they produced certificates to show that they had acquired a certain amount of education. If this system were applied to Wales the age below which the obtaining of a certificate is made the condition of employment must be higher than 14.

So few boys are employed under the age of 14 that there would be no inducement to obtain the certificate unless the prohibition were extended to a higher age than that.

29. The insufficiency of the education usually obtained by English children is generally due to the unwillingness of the parents to forego the addition to the family income resulting from the child's labour; this cause is absent in the districts which I visited in Wales. As this point is one of considerable importance for the purpose of this Commission, I will quote some opinions of school teachers and school managers to fortify my statement.

The Rev. J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, who had been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools in Anglesea, told me that he thought the instruction given was tolerably satisfactory, and added,—

"There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents." (Evid. 6.)

Miss Smith, mistress at a small rural school near Carnarvon, says,—

"The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent children learning to read, write, and cipher if they would attend regularly at other times." (Evid. 11.)

The Rev. J. W. Ellis, rector of Llanaelhaiarn, near Pwlheli, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them now to earn wages." (Evid. 12.)

Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them." (Evid. 18).

Mr. J. D. Jones, who was schoolmaster of the British school, Ruthin, in Denbighshire, for 14 years, says,—

"There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of labourers." (Evid. 38.)

Mr. Beverley, who was schoolmaster at Eglwas Fach, in Denbighshire, for 30 years, says,—

"There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children's learning the three 'R's' satisfactorily." (Evid. 22.)

PARISHES (with Populations) having only Dames' Schools.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbigh - - -	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NIGHT SCHOOLS in COUNTIES.

County.	Number of Night Schools, *i.e.*, Institutions.	Number of Night-school Scholars on Registers.	Average Number of Night-school Scholars in attendance.
Anglesea - -	5	120	84
Carnarvon -	9	372	253
Denbigh - -	16	481	307
Flint - -	6	249	149

Counties Proper.	Number of Ecclesiastical Parishes and Districts in each County.	Population at Census 1861.	Population in December 1866, as estimated by the Registrar-General.	Number of Week-day Schools, *i.e.*, Institutions.			Number of Scholars on Registers.				Average number of Week-day Scholars in attendance.				Number of Scholars under instruction in Day and Night Schools in 1866.	Per-centage on Population of 1866 (as estimated by the Registrar-General) of such Average Number.	Church of England, Dames' Schools, and Scholars in them, not included in previous columns.	
				Receiving Annual State Grants.	Not receiving Annual State Grants.	Total.	In Schools annually aided by the State.		In Schools not annually aided by the State.		In Schools annually aided by the State.		In Schools not annually aided by the State.				No. of Dames' Schools.	Average No. of Scholars in attendance.
							Day Schools.	Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.				
Anglesea	78	54,609	53,107	22	29	51	2,102	64	1,105	56	1,631	43	710	41	2,475	1·6, or 1 in 21·4	1	42
Carnarvon	80	95,691	100,495	34	23	57	5,883	391	1,384	71	4,357	220	918	33	5,528	5·5, or 1 in 18·1	0	0
Denbigh	79	100,778	103,801	37	25	62	5,337	320	2,200	152	3,793	190	1,623	117	5,723	5·4, or 1 in 18·4	4	88
Flint -	52	69,737	70,930	36	13	49	5,083	171	1,930	78	3,559	104	1,380	45	5,094	7·2, or 1 in 13·8	0	0

These tables only take into account the schools in connexion with the National Society. Besides these there are many other schools in North Wales. I learn from the Report of the Bangor Training College for 1869 that there are the following British Schools in these counties, viz:—18 in Anglesea, 22 in Carnarvonshire, 13 in Denbighshire, and 9 in Flintshire. If these are added to the National Schools it seems clear that the supply of school accommodation must be tolerably satisfactory.

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30. I feel sure that the opinions expressed in the evidence here quoted may be taken to be fair specimens of the opinions which are generally entertained by those best qualified to judge on the points referred to; and the conclusion at which I have arrived on this point is, that in no part of the counties to which the report refers are children employed in agriculture to such an extent as to prevent their acquiring a satisfactory elementary education.

Large number of dissenters in Wales.

31. There is one point in which the condition of Wales is essentially different from that of England, and a point too which it is most important to bear in mind in providing for the education of the children in Wales. I allude to the fact that a very large majority of the Welsh are Nonconformists. As a matter of fact, the Nonconformists always send their children to the National schools when there is no school for children professing their own creed within access, and, with scarcely any exception, permit them to be taught the Church Catechism. The teachers in the National school are generally careful not to instruct the children of dissenters in doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious belief of the parents. On this point the Rev. E. T. Watts remarks (Report on the Church of England Schools in Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, and Merioneth, printed in the Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1869, page 267):—"I know not of a single school in this district in which the "principle of the Conscience Clause is not practically recognized. My experience as a school manager "justifies the assertion that, as a rule, dissenters have little or no objection to the religious instruction "imparted to their children in National schools. Although it was a well-known fact in the parish of "which I was for some years the incumbent that any child might, upon the expressed wish of its "parents, be withdrawn from the religious instruction, the privilege, or whatever it might be called, "was not claimed in a single instance." At the same time I learnt that an idea prevails among Nonconformists that the clergy of the Established Church wish to bring them back to the church by means of the National schools, and that, in point of fact, the Nonconformists do object to the religious instruction given in the National schools. They make no formal complaint about it, because they prefer that their children should have an education accompanied with this religious instruction to their having no education at all.

Children of dissenters sent to National schools.

Opinion of dissenters as to National schools.

Sunday schools.

Night schools.

32. The Sunday schools form a notable feature which should be remarked upon in reviewing of the educational condition of these counties. These exist in very great numbers, and are largely attended by both children and adults, in some cases by as many as from 30 or 40 per cent. of the population. Night schools are very scarce in rural districts; this is owing to the very scattered distribution of the population.

Cottages.

33. Although North Wales can compare favourably with England both as regards employment of women and children in agriculture and the state of education among the agricultural labourers, the comparison as regards the cottages is certainly in favour of England. On the whole I have never seen in England as many bad cottages as I saw in North Wales.

Number.

34. I do not think that the cottages are insufficient in number. If the accommodation in each cottage were improved, the agricultural population might probably be accommodated without difficulty. In the mining districts, however, a difficulty occurs from the amount of labour which is employed constantly varying; whenever a new mine is opened more cottage accommodation is wanted, and it is difficult always to regulate the supply to the demand.

Accommodation.

Description of cottages.

35. In accommodation, however, the cottages in North Wales appear to me to be very generally insufficient. Those in Anglesea and Carnarvon consist, as a general rule, of one room, about 18 or 20 feet long by 14 or 15 broad. This room is unceiled, and paved with stones, and is used both as a living and sleeping room. It is generally partially divided by two box beds (*i.e.*, four post beds boarded on three sides), which are placed nearly across the centre of the room, leaving only a narrow passage to connect the portions of the room which are used by day and by night respectively. (Evid. 6.) Although only one room, the cottages, with the furniture thus disposed, have the appearance of having two rooms, the backs of the beds being fitted with shelves, on which the household crockery, &c. is placed. In another class of cottages the portion of the room which is used as a sleeping apartment is separated from the rest by a thin wooden partition; and, in a third class, this portion is divided into an upper and a lower floor, access being obtained to the upper floor from that portion of the cottage which is used as a living room by means of a moveable ladder. Although greater decency is thus obtained, the ventilation is probably worse in the cottages last described than in those in which there is no partition. I was told by a medical man of great experience at Carnarvon that he had reason to believe that the want of privacy in these cottages led to great immorality.* The class of cottages next

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* The charge of excessive immorality is one which is frequently brought against the Welsh, but it is a charge which I think is hardly supported by the facts. The immorality of a people may be measured either (1), by comparing the number of children born out of wedlock with the total number of births; or (2), by ascertaining the proportion of children borne by spinsters and widows of a child-bearing age, which for purposes of comparison may be taken to be between 20 and 40.

If the first test be adopted, the comparison between England and North Wales will stand thus:—

Children born out of wedlock to every 100 births—

In England -	- 5·9
„ North Wales	- 7·9

Although this comparison is unfavourable to North Wales, there are seven counties in England (viz., Norfolk, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire (North Riding), Cumberland, and Westmorland), in which the proportion of children born out of wedlock is higher than it is in North Wales (13th Annual Report of Registrar General, Abstract for 1867).

If the second test be adopted the comparison will stand thus:—

	To every 100 Married Women aged 20–40, the proportional Number of Legitimate Births annually in 10 Years, 1851–60.	To every 100 Spinsters and Widows aged 20–40, the proportional Number of Illegitimate Births annually in the 10 Years, 1851–60.
England and Wales - -	35·02	3·30
Monmouthshire and Wales -	37·25	3·57

But these figures if looked at alone, would probably lead to an incorrect estimate of the actual amount of immorality. The number of children born must, I apprehend, depend to some extent on the healthiness of the population, and would probably be

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above these, some few of which were to be found in Carnarvonshire, but which are more numerous in Denbighshire and Flintshire, always have one bedroom, and, in a few cases, two, and were generally built with an upper floor. The cottages are generally substantially built throughout North Wales, good building materials, slate and stone, being plentiful; but in some few districts, where building materials are less accessible than they generally are, the cottages are often not water-tight; for instance, in the district of Lleyn, which is rather out of reach of the slate quarries, the cottages were most of them thatched, and I saw many in this neighbourhood very much out of repair, and quite incapable of keeping out the weather. N.

36. The cottage rents vary from about 2*l.* to 5*l.* (Evid. 3, 6, 9, 12, 22, 27, 30, and 41.) They are very rarely accumulated in villages, and are always provided with gardens. I met with many instances of potato grounds being let by the farmers on systems substantially similar to those which exist in England. Rent.

37. It struck me that a smaller proportion of cottages in Wales belonged to squatters and speculators than in England; the great mass belonging to the landlords. The landlords sometimes retain them in their own hands, and sometimes let them with the farms. In principle I object to the system of giving the farmer absolute control over the dwellings of the labourers he employs, except perhaps in the case of a few of the principal men employed on a large farm. I have stated this in my previous reports, and have had no reason to change my opinions. The system, however, appears to me to be less objectionable in Wales than in England. There is less distinction between the labourer and farmer in Wales than in England, and the antagonism, which unfortunately too often exists in England between these two classes, is less common in Wales. Ownership.

38. The three room model cottages, which so many landlords have built in different parts of England, are rarely to be seen in Wales. I saw some good cottages on the estates of Mr. Hughes at Kinmel, and of Lord Penrhyn at Bangor; but good cottages appear to me to be less numerous in Wales, and to be increasing at a slower rate than in any part of England with which I am acquainted. I am not aware that cottage building is attended with any difficulties in Wales which do not exist in England, whereas, on the contrary, there can be no doubt that Wales has the advantage of possessing an abundance of building materials, which are too often wanting in England. Model cottages.

39. The conclusion then at which I arrive, with respect to the counties to which this Report refers, is that no legislation is required for the protection of juvenile or female labour in agriculture. Conclusion.

Children are not employed in agriculture to such an extent as to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory elementary education.

No doubt if it be thought desirable to legislate for the purpose of improving the education generally throughout the country, such legislation will be beneficial in Wales as well as in England, but it is no part of my duty to make suggestions as to the mode in which this can be done.

I have again to express my thanks for the courtesy and hospitality which I have universally met with among those to whom I have had to address myself in the course of my inquiries.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,

F. H. NORMAN.

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greater in North Wales, where the average annual rate of mortality from all causes to 1,000 persons living (1851-60) was 20, than in England generally, where the rate was 22. It is to be feared also that an opinion prevails in Wales (as in many parts of England), that a subsequent marriage cancels previous immorality, and however much this opinion may be disapproved of and deplored, it is hardly fair to compare the illegitimate births in counties where it prevails with the illegitimate births in counties where no similar sanction is given by public opinion to illicit intercourse.

I am indebted to W. Farr, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., of the Registrar-General's Office, for the figures given in this note.

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REPORT by Mr. CULLEY on the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

O. 1. I have the honour of submitting to you the evidence which I received in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen on the mode of employment and general condition of the agricultural labouring class.

Mode of collecting evidence. 2. In collecting this evidence I adopted the same course as I have hitherto done, selecting one union for close examination, and paying short visits to others at the time I had appointed to meet their respective boards of guardians.

Narberth Union a typical district. 3. As a typical district I selected Narberth Union, which lies between the counties, and includes approximately about 80,000 acres in Pembrokeshire and 45,000 in Carmarthen. This union also fairly represents the mixed breeding, dairying, and tillage farming prevalent in the two counties, and depending (as far as they are not the result of climate) on geological formations, the most important of which are to be found in the union I am speaking of.

Little-England-beyond-Wales. 4. Narberth Union also contains a considerable section (upwards of 8,000) of the English or Flemish population, who inhabit a district round the south coast, which will be sufficiently indicated by drawing a line from St. David's Head on the west, through the town of Narberth, to the mouth of the river Taf on the east. This mixed colony of Saxons and Flemings is said to have settled itself on the coast of Pembrokeshire about the beginning of the 12th century. It is said that the Saxons were sent by Henry the First to teach the Flemings to speak English. Be that as it may, the inhabitants of "Little-England-beyond-Wales" speak English with a pronunciation much more like the northern than the southern English, and resemble the northerners more in appearance.

Separation of English and Welsh races. 5. As an instance of how completely apart the English and Welsh races have kept themselves, I may mention that I have visited two cottages within about 100 yards of each other, in one of which I was not understood, because I could only speak English, while in the other I should have been as little understood if I had spoken Welsh.

6. Narberth town, which I made my head-quarters for about three weeks, stands on the line of demarkation, and whenever I went northwards I was glad to avail myself of the kindly offered assistance of Mr. Wm. Philipps (a relieving officer of some 20 years' standing) as guide and interpreter.

Agricultural labourers living in their 7. Before considering more closely the evidence as it serves to exhibit the condition of the agricultural labouring class, it will be well to explain that the farm labourer, as he would be generally

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understood in England, *i. e.* as a man providing his own food and that of his family, and dependent altogether on the wages he receives from his employer, is a comparatively small quantity in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen.

O. own cottages and providing their own food, a comparatively small quantity in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen.

8. The farming of the two counties is, as I have said before, a mixed system of breeding, dairying, and tillage, about one-fifth of the total acreage being annually under the plough, and less than one-fourth subject to it. Nor is any great change likely to take place in this respect; neither the climate, which is very wet, especially in spring and autumn, nor the formation of the surface, which is very uneven, are suited to the cultivation of corn; while, on the other hand, the continual moisture and mild winters are very favourable to grass, and, in fact, except in favoured spots, such as Laugharne Marsh or the limestone district near Stackpole, if it was not that the moisture and mild winters are favourable to the growth of root crops, still less land would be under the plough, and still less labour would be required.*

Again, the number of labourers proper is still further reduced by the fact that holdings are generally small, and a great deal of the required work is done by the farmers and their families; some farms, indeed, are so small that the tenant does occasional work as a labourer for neighbouring farmers.

Of the labourers employed a large proportion are unmarried; men, women, and lads being hired by the year, and boarded and lodged in the farmhouse or on the premises. Women hired by the year to assist in the dairy and do general farm work sleep in the house, the hired men and lads more often in a loft over the stables, on clothes spread on clean straw in the body of a cart. (Appendix A., 3 and 25.)

As if to reduce the chances of a married labourer, who wishes to be independent and feed his family as well as himself, still further, it is a common custom for married men to receive their food from the farmers as part payment of wages.†

9. The great improvement which has taken place during the last 20 years in the position of the agricultural labouring class in South Wales being one of the most important features to which I have to draw your attention, before going into the question of what wages are worth now, I shall take the liberty of quoting two very competent authorities on the condition of the labourer, past and present.

The condition of the labouring class in South Wales greatly improved during the last 20 years.

In his prize report on the farming of South Wales (published in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal for 1849), Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., says:—

"The peasantry of West Wales are contented and thrifty. Their wages are not often more than 6*s.* in the upper and 7*s.* per week in the lower country. It is customary to board the labourers wholly or in part during harvest, giving them the same wages. They are neat and skilful in some of the minor branches of husbandry, but in general field work, where strength and exertion are required, they are much inferior to English labourers; indeed, a Lincolnshire workman at *half-a-crown* a day is not dearer than most Welsh labourers at *a shilling*. In support of this I may state that task work (which is seldom heard of here, *i. e.* in Wales) cannot be done cheaper in Wales than in the east of England. This is naturally the case. A man who consumes *wheaten bread* and *meat* must be in better working trim than the man who eats *barley cake* and a *little butter*, and until Welsh labourers are better fed they cannot be physically capable of sustaining with equal ease the fatigues of a hard day's work. Their principal diet is oat and barley-meal, moistened with water and made into cakes; these cakes are pressed very thin, and baked on an iron plank. Barley bread is made in large loaves, fermented with leaven."

Passing now from 1849 to 1869, Mr. William Philipps (relieving officer of Narberth Union), than whom no man understands better the position of the South Wales peasant, says in his evidence (Appendix A. 19):—

"The condition of the labouring class is much improved since my recollection both as to wages and position. The usual rate of wages for agricultural labourers about 25 years ago was from 3*s.* to 4*s.* weekly and their food; there were some privileges in addition, such as manure for setting potatoes and employment for the wives and any of the children who were able during haymaking and harvest, but in those days the children were badly clad, and if sickness came to the house the family were some time before recovering. Barley bread and potatoes were their chief food, and schooling was little thought of. I believe the turning point in the labourer's advanced condition was about the making of the South Wales Railway; the demand for labour and the offer of more wages induced many to accept the opportunity, and a large number of agricultural labourers were employed on the line. On the completion of the railway great advantages were opened for labourers to visit the coal mines in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, which they could formerly only reach on foot. Some return occasionally to their native homes, while large numbers with their families settle on the hills, and some emigrate to America and the colonies. Under these circumstances the present condition of the working class is much superior to what it was. The usual rate of wages are now 6*s.* per week and food and from 9*s.* to 12*s.* on their own finding. Wheaten bread is now almost universally used, but the present high price of butcher's meat is rather beyond their means . . . . Applications for relief by the able-bodied without being afflicted by sickness are very rare in these days, and under these circumstances, together with privileges of educating their children at a small charge, the present general condition of the labourer is much improved."

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* It may be well to state the following particulars for refererence:—

Agricultural statistics.

	Acres.
Total acreage of the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke	1,000,022
Total acreage accounted for in Agricultural Returns for 1868	651,533
In permanent grass	377,337
In cultivation (including artificial grasses which cover 83,921 acres)	274,196

Geological formations.

The northern and larger part of Pembrokeshire, and about three-fourths of Carmarthenshire, rest on beds of the upper and lower Silurian systems, presenting a very uneven and generally poor surface to the farmer.

In south Pembrokeshire there are alternate narrow strips (running east and west) of the Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous systems.

There is good land, where corn gives well, (a rare thing in South Wales) on the limestone, especially in the neighbourhood of Stackpole, and there is good corn land on the Old Red Sandstone in Laugharne Marsh and the Vale of the Towy.

† Mr. J. Lloyd, relieving officer of the north-west district of Carmarthen Union, says in his evidence (Appendix A. 35)—

"Very few labourers in my district find their own food. I hardly know their wages."

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How railways have affected the condition of the labouring class.

10. Many other witnesses, especially relieving officers, spoke of the great change for the better which has taken place in the condition of the labouring class during their recollection, and I have no doubt that Mr. William Philipps is right in dating this change for the better from the commencement of the South Wales Railway. Not only did the employment on the railway works immediately affect the labour market of a thinly populated district, but it also introduced the ill-paid and ill-fed Welsh labourer to a class of well-fed and abler workmen, and at the completion of the railway the higher wages of the coal mines and iron and copper works of Glamorganshire were put within comparatively easy reach of every one.*

11. The man who upon a diet of potatoes, oatmeal flummery, and barley cake was worth 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week to the farmer, became, when fed on wheaten bread and meat, worth 12*s.* a week to the railway contractor, and having tasted of the more generous diet which farm wages would not buy, he set the example of an exodus which has been going on to a remarkable extent of late years from the rural districts of South Wales. †

Effect of better wages and food.

12. But the Welsh farmers may take heart. As Mr. Sewell Read told them 20 years ago, and as the reports of this Commission have gone a long way towards proving, one man may be as well worth 15*s.* a week as another man is worth 7*s.*, and an ill-fed labourer, who is only worth 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week, may very easily on better food become worth 10*s.* or 12*s.* Mr. Sewell Read, speaking of 20 years ago, when farm labourers' wages in South Wales were from 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, says,—"Piece-work cannot "be done cheaper in Wales than in the east of England." Now, when wages in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen have gone up to something like an average (all told) of 12*s.* a week, such piece-work as the Welsh understand, as, for instance, mowing corn and hay, as well as carpenters' and masons' work, is cheaper (according to the evidence which I received on the subject) than in any of the English counties which I have inspected.

13. Beyond the fact that Welsh farming has improved, though much remains to be done in this respect, during the very time that wages have been almost doubled, the farmer, as a ratepayer, or rather as *the* ratepayer, is receiving a reward for feeding his labourers better. Mr. T. G. Bush, Medical Officer of Narberth Union, in answer to my question, "Is the change of food, gradually taking place, for good "or for evil?" says (Appendix A. 16),—

"Most decidedly for good. I find that since the potatoe and porridge diet (which was up to the time of the outbreak of the potatoe disease the prevalent food of the agricultural labourer and cottager) has been to a great extent abandoned and replaced by bread, butter, and cheese; that the labourer is more able to resist the influences of weather, and when he is struck down by disease there is a far greater rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so that he is able soon to resume work. It may also be added that the board of guardians now give a larger amount of relief to the sick poor than was formerly the case."

Food, Wages, and Hiring.

Value of food and lodging as provided by the employer.

14. In order to arrive at the value of the wages of men who are boarded and lodged by their employer, or receive their food as part payment, as well as to compare their earnings with those of the smaller class who receive their wages altogether or chiefly in money, I shall take the board and lodging as generally worth 6*s.* a week, and the food as worth 8*d.* a day.

The nature of the lodging I have already described. I am allowing 1*s.* 4*d.* a week as the value of the bed on the floor of the hay loft. It will, however, immediately strike you that 8*d.* a day is a very low estimate for the cost of the food of a labouring man, when provided by his employer. In taking 8*d.* a day as the value of the food I am going beyond the value assigned to it by the majority of farmers themselves, and perhaps beyond the actual value in many cases. Whether my estimate is a proper one or not will best appear from an examination of the evidence as to the difference in money paid to men who find themselves, as compared with those who receive their food on working days from the farmer, as well as from an examination of what the food usually consists of.

15. In nearly every statement of the value of wages (and there are many) in the evidence, you will see that 9*s.* a week on their own finding is considered equal to 6*s.* on the farmer's finding; *i.e.*, if a man chooses to provide his own food the farmer only allows him 3*s.* a week more than if he (the farmer) fed him. Occasionally I found a farmer allowing 4*s.* a week difference, but this was usually an employer who provided better food than his neighbours, or who was anxious to induce his men to provide for themselves.‡

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* Mr. W. J. Rowe, relieving officer of Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20)—
"Our labourers are much better off than they used to be."
Mr. D. J. Vaughan, R. O., Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 23)—
"Wages have risen very much of late years; the young men leave the district a good deal."
Mr. Daniel Williams, R. O., Llandovery Union, says (Appendix A. 28)—
"Labourers are much better off than they used to be, simply because the labour market has been thinned by men going off to 'The Works' and emigrating to America."

† The Ven. Archdeacon Clark, says (Appendix A. 2)—
"The population is not excessive, perhaps the reverse; it is diminishing in the rural districts, and there is generally no lack of employment."
The Haverfordwest Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 13)—
"Our agricultural labouring class are diminishing in number."
Mr. J. J. Johnston, R. O., Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 22)—
"There is much less manual labour in the country than there used to be, and the men go off to the works or emigrate."
Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix A. 25)—
"Able-bodied men go off to the works in Glamorganshire, and leave the old men and lads to do the work here."
The Rev. D. Thomas, Rector of Pendine, speaking of female employment (Appendix B., 60), says—
"They are not easily found; they marry very young and off they go to Merthyr."

‡ Mr. W. Philipps, R. O., Narberth Union, says in a letter addressed to me—
"Three shillings per week is the sum always retained if the man has his food with the farmer."

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16. In taking the food as worth 8*d.* a day, I am therefore putting it as worth 2*d.* a day more than the generality of farmers would allow for it, but I think I am justified in doing so from the general impression which prevails that the labourer who receives 6*s.* a week and his food is better off than the man who receives 9*s.* on his own finding, and from the fact that large farmers who object to the system of feeding their men find it necessary to offer 4*s.* a week, or 8*d.* a day (for six working days), in lieu of food. G.

17. After all, 8*d.* a day is one-third less than the labourers in any of the English counties which I have inspected would accept in exchange for food provided by their employers, and it becomes interesting to see how the character of the food justifies its being valued at so small a sum. Evidence as to the nature of the food provided by employers.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, thus describes the diet (Appendix A. 6):—

"Breakfast—A broth (made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes) and a piece of bacon or roof-beef, or milk and washbrew, or coffee and bread and butter. Dinner—The broth. Tea—Not usually given. Supper—The broth." *

Mr. Wm. Philipps, R. O., Narberth Union, thus described to me the food provided by farmers:—

"For breakfast—Broth and potatoes. For dinner—Milk-broth, or roof-beef, or bacon. For supper—More broth. Of course there is with each meal plenty of barley bread and cheese." †

Describing the food in *harvest*, Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthan Union, says (Appendix A. 25),—

"The dinner in harvest is milk and flummery, with cheese and butter. At 6 or 7 o'clock they have bacon, potatoes, and cabbage done in a pot, and rice pudding."

Mr. Thomas Davidson, an occupier in Narberth Union, gives the following evidence on this subject (Appendix B. 43 b):—

"The board of labourers in some farmhouses is broth for breakfast and dinner and supper, with bread and cheese, adding a little bacon for dinner of what the broth has been made. The better farmers give tea, bread, and butter for breakfast; meat, vegetables, and bread for dinner; and broth, with potatoes, bread, and cheese for supper."

Mr. Trotter, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, speaking of the food of the labourers in the English quarter (where wages are higher than in the greater part of the Welsh district), says (Appendix B. 30),—

"Their food chiefly consists of barley meal (sometimes mixed with flour) made into bread. They generally have for breakfast cold tea and bread; for dinner generally the same thing; for supper bacon and potatoes."

18. Such are descriptions of the dietary which, at the consumers' own estimate, I shall, in calculating the value of wages, consider worth 8*d.* a day. It is cheaper than the dietary that would be accepted from an employer in almost any county in England, from the large proportion of potatoes, oat and barley meal, and cheap cheese that is used, as compared with wheaten flour and butchers' meat. Causes of the cheapness of dietary.

19. It must not, however, be imagined that the ordinary labourer who feeds himself spends so large a proportion of his wages on his own stomach. I was constantly told that the labourer was better fed on the farmer's finding than on his own; that when he received his food from the farmer the labourer himself was better off, while his family suffered; that, in fact, under this system too large a share of the wages is consumed in feeding the bread-winner.

20. Where cottages are not conveniently placed, the small farmer, who is content (as the small farmer in these counties is) to feed his labourers as well as he does himself, finds it very convenient to provide food on working days for his men; but as farms are increased in size and fall into the hands of men who are not content to feed with their servants, the custom of providing food for married labourers who live in their own cottages will gradually disappear, to the advantage, I think, of the labourers' families. Custom of giving food to married servants will probably gradually disappear.

21. In examining the value of labourers' earnings in different parts of my district I shall take first the case of single men who are hired by the year and boarded and lodged by the farmer. Such men when over 20 years of age receive from 12*l.* to 20*l.* in money. In the north of Pembrokeshire and west of Carmarthenshire they rarely receive more than 12*l.* or 13*l.* whereas in the north and east of Carmarthenshire they would command from 14*l.* to 15*l.*, and some receive as much as 20*l.* Taking therefore the board and lodging to be worth 6*s.* a week, the wages of this class vary (according to Wages of single men hired by the year.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, and an occupier in the Union, says (Appendix A. 6)—
"Men's wages vary according to locality; when near a town or in a coal, lime, or manufacturing district, wages vary from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week; in the more rural parts they are 9*s.* a week or 1*s.* a day and food."

Mr. W. J. Rowe, R. O., Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20)—
"In the agricultural part of my district the wages of labourers are 6*s.* and meat, or from 9*s.* to 10*s.* without meat."

Mr. J. Thomas, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says—
"Men who keep themselves don't average more than 9*s.* a week; those that are fed by the farmer and sleep at home average 6*s.* a week."

* *The broth*, as Mr. Phillips says, is usually made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes, occasionally it is made with milk; when made with water and used for dinner or supper, a piece of bacon or dried ("roof") beef is boiled in it. Description of food used by labourers in South Wales.

Washbrew or Flummery (which is a very common article of consumption when labourers provide their own food) resembles very closely what the Scotch call *Sowens*, and is made of oatmeal and water, the mixture, after being allowed to sour, is strained to remove the husks and then boiled till it thickens, when it looks like a cross between porridge and blanc-mange. Washbrew is generally eaten before it is perfectly cold with skim or butter milk.

Roof or dried beef is commonly the dried flesh of a cow which has failed to be of service for dairy purposes, by no means such agreeable food as a "*giddy* sheep sticked in time" which the Dorsetshire shepherd's wife described to my colleague, Mr. Stanhope.

† *The cheese is made* from skimmed milk, and is worth from 2*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb. A great deal of this cheese is consumed by the labourers of South Wales.

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O. locality and capability) from 10*s.* 6*d.* to something over 13*s.* 6*d.* a week. (Appendix A. 15, 25, 26; B. 34, 35 a).

Wages of men paid partly in money and partly in kind.

22. Taking now the large class of labourers (also hired by the year, though generally paid fortnightly,) who live in their own cottages and receive their food on working days from the farmer,—I found that the wages of this class varied from 5*s.* a week in the worst-paid district of Pembrokeshire, to 7*s.* 6*d.* a week on some farms which I visited in Carmarthenshire. Over the larger part of both counties 6*s.* a week and food is the ordinary wage. *Irrespective therefore of other perquisites or allowances*, which I shall take into account afterwards, this class, putting the value of the food at 8*d.* a day, receive a wage worth from 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* a week, according to locality, and are in the same position as to other allowances as the third class, who find their own food, and in the purely agricultural districts receive 9*s.* a week wages. (Appendix A. 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27; B. 43 a.)

23. Before assessing the value of the total earnings of these two classes, it will be necessary to glance at the allowances or perquisites which the labourers comprising them usually obtain. In the case of nearly all such farm servants their fuel (on an average 4 tons of culm per annum) is led free of charge, and a certain amount of potatoes (about 1 cwt.) are planted for them on the farmer's land and at his expense, save that for each load of dung supplied to the potato land the labourer or his wife must do a good day's work in harvest. In addition to these allowances, which prevail almost universally where the wage is 9*s.* a week, the labourer, if a good man, has a cottage and garden either rent-free or at a very small rent; and in several cases I found that the labourers were never charged above a certain price for the corn they used, however high the market price might be. Mr. R. D. Jenkens, a large occupier in St. Dogmell's parish, for instance, never raises the price of barley supplied to his servants above 4*s.* a bushel.*

24. Taking the leadage of fuel as worth 26*s.* a year, and the potato land (allowing for the drawback of service in harvest) as worth the same, and the rent-free cottage and garden as worth 52*s.* a year, the earnings of ordinary men of the 3rd class are raised to an average of 11*s.* a week for the year where the money wage is 9*s.* a week and to 12*s.* a week, where the money wage is 10*s.*, as in the neighbourhood of Carmarthen. In the same way the earnings of the 2nd class are raised, where these allowances are all given, as is commonly the case, unless others are substituted for them, to from 11*s.* to 13*s.* 6*d.* a week on an average for the year.

I do not mean to say that a free cottage, leadage of fuel, and potato land are always given in the case of men who receive 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week and their food, or 9*s.* or 10*s.* without food; but I say that they are the most common allowances, and that where a farmer cannot give a free cottage he either increases the wage in summer, or gives Sunday food or some other allowance of about equal value.†

Wages paid entirely in money very unusual.

25. Wages paid entirely in money are very unusual except in the neighbourhood of towns where the rate of wages is naturally higher than in the rural districts. In the east of Carmarthenshire I found wages paid only in money to vary from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week. In the neighbourhood of Tenby and Pembroke farm labourers paid entirely in money receive 12*s.* a week as a rule, and 15*s.* for about three months in summer. Quarrymen working by the piece in South Pembrokeshire expect to make at least 18*s.* a week.‡

Table showing the average earnings of agricultural labourers in different districts.

26. The following table will give a very fair idea of the value of the earnings (including all ordinary allowances) at the command of any able-bodied farm labourer in the respective districts:—

South Pembrokeshire	- -	11*s.* to 13*s.* per week.
North „	- -	10*s.* to 12*s.* „
West Carmarthenshire	- -	10*s.* to 12*s.* „
East „	- -	12*s.* to 14*s.* „

In Narberth Union, which I took as a typical district, I think the value of the earnings of an ordinary farm labourer are seldom worth less than an average of 11*s.* a week, and seldomer perhaps worth more than 12*s.*

Employment of boys in farm labour.

27. Boys under 13 years of age are very little employed in agriculture for wages in either county. My labour returns (Appendix C., Table A.) show that, excluding haytime and harvest, only one boy under 10 years of age was employed during three-quarters of the year on 5,169 acres, included in 18 farms. On the same acreage only three boys between 10 and 13 years of age are returned as employed permanently, and the proportion of boys and lads under 18 as compared with adult males is as one to six. As nearly one half (2,432) of these 5,169 acres are arable, the returns probably show a larger proportion of youthful as compared with adult labour than would be the case if the farms from which I received returns had contained only the proportion of arable land prevalent in the counties. On the other hand, as boys are said to be more employed by the small working farmers, my returns, which are from farms averaging nearly 300 acres, might appear to lessen the proportion of youthful labour.

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* Mr. R. D. Jenkens thus describes his manner of paying his labourers (Appendix B. 34)—

"I can speak of those in my own employment. I have some labourers who have 1*s.* a day on their own finding excepting during the harvest, when I give them all their food in addition; those men also have 3*s.* a day when cutting hay; they pay me 3*l.* a year each for their cottages, gardens, and a sufficient quantity of land to keep a cow each and sometimes rear a calf and to grow corn, but not sufficient corn to maintain their families. I allow my teams and men to cultivate their land for them, and to haul their fuel and manure free of expense for haulage. I also pay rates and tithes charged in respect of their holdings.

"To other labourers I give 8*s.* a week on their own finding with food during harvest time, and the same wages for cutting hay as the prior class referred to; they live on my farm. I charge them 1*l.* a year for a cottage and garden, but they have no land to keep a cow. I haul their fuel free of charge.

"To a third class I give 8*s.* a week from November to March, and 9*s.* from March to November, with the same regulations as to food during harvest, and also the same wage for cutting hay as the others; they do not live in my cottages, therefore pay rather a higher rent than mine do. I allow my labourers to plant potatoes on my land, giving them six or eight cart loads of my farm manure for which they, or rather their wives, give me a day's harvesting for each cart load of manure, no other charge made for the load; the women have their food when so harvesting."

Fuel used by labourers.

The *fuel* in ordinary use amongst the labourers and small farmers in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen is a mixture of the small or dust of anthracite coal and clay made up when damp into what are termed "balls." A fire of balls burns slowly, with very little smoke, but emits a certain amount of steam, which is unpleasant to the nostrils of a person unused to it. About four tons of small coal made up in this way will serve a labourer's family for 12 months.

† Mr. H. P. Goode, land agent, speaking of Slebech parish, in Narberth Union, says (Appendix B. 62a)—

"Wages are nearly uniform for all ages, 9*s.* a week, with cottage and garden rent free, their coals driven for them, and sundry other privileges, worth in all 12*s.* per week."

‡ Mr. V. Rees, an occupier in Llangunnor parish (Carmarthen Union), says (Appendix B. 65a)—

"Ordinary labourers I pay 12*s.* a week, and in haytime I have to give 15*s.*"

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28. The following evidence, while it confirms the impression which would be gained from the "labour returns," will show how little, as compared with southern English counties, boys under 13 are employed in farm labour in South Wales.

Evidence shows that no physical injury is done to children by the manner in which they are employed in agriculture.

The Narberth Board of Guardians, in answer to a question of mine, said (see Appendix A. 12):—

"Children under 13 years of age are very little employed. . . . . All widows requiring relief are allowed 1*s.* weekly for each child until it attains the age of 13, provided the child is kept at school."

The Haverfordwest Guardians said (Appendix A. 13):—

"Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals. . . . Children receiving parochial relief are allowed such relief, and payment for schooling, up to 14 years of age."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians said (Appendix A. 14):—

"Boys begin to be employed at about 12 years of age."

In Carmarthen Union widows receive relief for their children till they are 13.

The Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union said (Appendix A. 15):—

"Except on hill farms, looking after cattle or sheep, boys are not usually employed in farm labour in this union till they are 11 or 12 years of age."

The ploughboy system is very little practised in either of the counties, and where it is, no boy under 12 years of age is expected to draggle through sticky land at the side of a horse.

It is scarcely necessary to quote the medical evidence as given by Messrs. T. G. Bush, J. Hughes, and D. Lloyd, surgeons, to establish the soundness of the opinion of all witnesses whom I examined on the subject, *that there is nothing physically injurious to children in the manner of their employment in agriculture.**

Wages of boys.

29. Boys who are employed under 12 years of age receive very little beyond their food; I found, for instance, one boy of 10 employed herding cattle in Begelly parish (in the English quarter) who had, according to his father's account, 1*d.* a day and his victuals. This boy could neither read nor write.†

After they have reached 12, or more commonly 13 years of age, boys generally seek and obtain a yearly hiring, when they receive their board and lodging (such as I have described for hired men), and from 2*l.* to 3*l.* wages, some part of the wage frequently taking the shape of a pair of boots or old clothes. By the time a boy arrives at 16 years of age, his wage would ordinarily have risen to about 6*l.*

Employment and wages of girls.

30. Girls go out to service at about the same age as boys, *i.e.*, from 12 to 13 years of age. On dairy farms, besides the ordinary duties of domestic servants, they are expected to help the dairy-maid and look after cows, calves, and pigs. On arable farms they are also employed in setting potatoes, hoeing turnips, and assisting in harvest work. They begin at about the same wage as boys, but I did not find any instance of an efficient grown-up dairy-maid receiving a higher wage than 10*l.* On one farm which I visited, where three dairy-maids were kept, their wages were respectively, 4*l.*, 7*l.*, and 10*l.*

31. On almost all farms in South Wales there is a certain amount of dairy work, and the hours of work of the female servants are long. They are thus described by Mr. J. L. Phillips, chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, and a considerable occupier of land (Appendix A. 6):—

"Women get up at 5 a.m. to milk, &c., and continue till bedtime (9 p.m.) to serve in the general duties expected on a small farm."

32. On some arable farms girls of 13 or 14 years of age are employed during the turnip season at day wages, receiving from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Their hours of work usually vary from eight to nine hours; occasionally they are expected to work for 10 hours.

Employment of women in general farm work.

33. On dairy farms the field work of women is more or less confined to haytime, but on arable farms they are employed in all kinds of work, except such as is connected with the management of horses.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, whom I have quoted above, says (Appendix A. 6):—

"Women do all the work necessary on a farm in common with the men, except ploughing, carting, spading, and hard work generally considered too heavy and laborious for females."

The Haverfordwest Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 13):—

"Adult women (chiefly married) are employed in all kinds of farm work."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 14):—

"On arable farms women (usually married) are employed in all light farm work; but female employment is more generally confined to harvest and haytime."

The Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union (in which there is a smaller proportion of arable land) say (Appendix A. 15),—

"Women are not much employed except in hay and corn harvest; they are much less employed than formerly."

Medical evidence.

* Mr. T. G. Bush, surgeon and M. O., Narberth Union, says—
"There is no taxing of the strength beyond the physical capability of the child."
Mr. John Hughes, surgeon, Carmarthen, says—
"I do not believe that either boys or girls are overworked."
Mr. D. Lloyd, surgeon and M. O. of Carmarthen Union, says—
"There is nothing injurious physically to the children of the agricultural labouring class in the manner of their employment."

† Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says—
"Boys don't get wages much before they are 12 or 13, they get their food and some old clothes."

At the collieries in South Pembrokeshire boys (and girls) of 10 or 11 can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day (Appendix B. 35b, 41a, 41b).

In the barking season, in both counties, children from about 10 years of age assist their parents in piece-work (Appendix A. 2 and 4).

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34. The diminution in the employment of female labour in Llandovery Union is a probable consequence of the rise in men's wages, the rate of wages in that union being at least 1*s.* a week higher than, for example, in Narberth Union.

Labour returns show the proportion of married and unmarried women employed, and how the employment varies throughout the year.

35. The Labour Returns (Table B., Appendix C.), which exclude extra hands only employed in haytime and harvest, will give a very correct idea of how female employment varies throughout the year, and what proportion of the adult female labourers are married.

As far as females over 18 years of age are concerned the returns stand thus:

On 5,169 acres, about half of which are arable, there were employed during the 12 months preceding the time at which the returns were made,—

	Women employed.		
	Married.	Single.	Total.
Spring - - -	39	37	76
Summer - - -	45	46	91
Autumn - - -	42	44	86
Winter - - -	33	36	69

The number of married and single women (including girls over 18 hired to do general farm work) is about the same, and (exclusive of those who only assist in hay or harvest work) about 80 per cent. of the women who do field work in summer follow the same occupation in winter.

Wages of female workers.

36. For ordinary out-door work women usually receive 8*d.* a day, though in some parishes I found 10*d.* a day given all through the summer. Where food is given the money payment is dropped to 4*d.* or 6*d.*, according as the hours of work are 8 or 10. In haytime and harvest the 8*d.* becomes a shilling a day, or food is given, making the wage worth about 1*s.* 2*d.* In some of the eastern parishes women earn as much as 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in harvest; 8*d.* a day is however the usual payment which a woman receives for a day's work of eight or nine hours, according to the custom of the farm or parish. Where unmarried women work men's hours, *i.e.*, 10 hours a day, they commonly receive 6*d.* a day and their food.*

Earnings of married women.

37. As the wages women earn in harvest, except in the value of the food given, are very little higher than at ordinary times, and as a married woman has to give about a week's work to repay the potato manure allowed by the farmer, she can hardly be expected, say in Narberth Union, to bring to the family purse more than the produce of about 200 days in the year at 8*d.* a day, or 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the 12 months.

Earnings of a labourer and his wife in Narberth Union, and the use they make of them as compared with a Berkshire labourer and his wife.

38. As an example of how difficult it is to estimate what a labourer can or cannot do for his family, simply from knowing how much money he earns, take the case of a labourer and his wife in Narberth Union as compared with a similar couple in Wantage Union, in Berks, where the day-work wage for women is the same as in Narberth.

The Berkshire woman by extra harvest wages could, working the same number of days, earn at least 1*l.* more in the year than the Welsh, while her husband would earn an average of 2*s.* a week more for the year, and yet the Welsh woman and her husband would not only show you a much better furnished house but would be and are perfectly willing to do without the assistance of their children for two years longer than the Berkshire couple would be willing. It can hardly be said in this case that the better management is the result of better education. As compared with the Berkshire labourer the Welshman is thrifty and sober; his thrift induces him to live on cheaper and coarser food, and his sobriety is a savings' bank; but I take it that both thrift and sobriety are aided by the way in which his wages are paid.

Complaints of immorality amongst the hired servants.

39. I heard no complaint, as far as I remember, against field labour proper as leading to immorality amongst young women, but I was constantly hearing very serious complaints against the manner in which the young hired female servants are permitted to conduct themselves. I think it will be as well to allow one or two of the most important witnesses to speak for themselves on this subject.

Speaking of the girls who go out to service at farmhouses, Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor, says (Appendix A. 1),—

"It is too much the rule on the part of employers, I am sorry to say, to pay but little attention to the moral condition of these servant girls; they lose their characters to a deplorable extent, and become mothers at a very early age."

The Ven. the Archdeacon of St. David's (Appendix A. 2) says:—

"Bastardy is common, unchastity, in the youth of both sexes, the rule rather than the exception. This is greatly owing to the conditions under which the farm lads and servant girls are hired (at fairs without a character very commonly), and to the excessive liberty allowed them when in service."

* Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 6)—
"Women earn 6*d.*, 8*d.*, and 9*d.* a day, working from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. In harvest they make 10*d.*, 1*s.*, and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day."
Mr. J. Thomas, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix A. 27)—
"Women working 10 hours a day commonly get 6*d.* a day and their food."
Mr. R. D. Jenkens, landowner and occupier in Cardigan Union, says (Appendix B. 34)—
"I pay girls and women 8*d.* a day on their own finding, excepting during harvest, when I give them their food."
Mr. V. Rees, occupier in Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix B. 65a)—
"I employ as many women as I can get, singling turnips and spreading manure, &c. I pay women 8*d.* in winter and 10*d.* in summer, and I give tea and beer in long days. They begin work at 8½ a.m., and work till 6 p.m., with an hour's interval."

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The Rev. Wm. Owen, Baptist minister, after speaking of the evils arising from the want of accommodation in cottages, says (Appendix A. 3):—

"Hence with the custom of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, and hay-lofts, &c., entirely removed from the control of the master, from whence they prowl about in the night, about neighbours' houses, seeking and obtaining intercourse with the girls through the night, arise the many cases of bastardy which we hear of in the county."

Mr. Wm. Philipps, Relieving Officer, Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20):—

"The rate of bastardy is, I believe, on the decrease; the cause of its being at the present rate is the great levity allowed to farm servants in spending nights together courting, not always from love or affection, but usually from an old custom of the country."

In a letter addressed by Sir James J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell, landowners, "to the "freeholders and tenant farmers of the county of Carmarthen," after urging upon farmers to adopt a system of characters for their hired servants, male and female, these gentlemen say:—

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which, at present, much unnecessary license is given in farmhouses."

What Mr. Philipps calls "an old custom of the country" will probably linger long before it disappears or takes some more decent shape; but I think there are signs that the "freeholders and "tenant farmers" of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen are beginning to exercise more control over the conduct of their hired servants.

Schools and School Attendance.

School returns from Narberth Union.

40. Table C. (Appendix C.) shows the number of children under 13 years of age on the registers, as well as in average attendance at 29 out of the 34 schools in existence in Narberth Union at the time of my visit, and gives the names of those parishes (16 in number) in which no school is provided. I hoped to have been able to present a complete return of the school attendance in the union, but after waiting a considerable time I have failed to obtain a return in five cases.*

Excluding from Table C. Crunwere, Llandissilio, Llanfalteg, Llangan, Monachlogddu, and Newmoat parishes, from which I have either received no return or an incomplete one, the attendance account stands thus:—that in an area of 101,897 acres containing 18,300 inhabitants, there are *in average attendance* at some elementary school:—

In summer - - - -	456	boys under 10.
	298	„ between 10 and 13.
	420	girls under 10.
	222	„ between 10 and 13.
Total children under 13 -	1,396	
In winter - - - -	445	boys under 10.
	333	„ between 10 and 13.
	379	girls under 10.
	277	„ between 10 and 13.
Total children under 13 -	1,434	

And that there are on the register of the same schools:—

In summer - - -	2,116 children under 13.
In winter - - -	2,109 children under 13.†

As there has been no attempt to separate the children of the agricultural labouring class from those of other classes in making the school returns from Narberth Union, the returns may be fairly taken to include 85 per cent. of all the children in the union under 13 years of age who are receiving education; they include, in fact, the children of the labourer and ordinary farmer, as well as those of the townspeople or villagers of a corresponding rank in life.

Proportion of children attending schools.

41. It would appear, therefore, that there is one child under 13 years of age *on the register* of some elementary school for every seven and one-third persons, and one *in average attendance* for every 11 persons, taking the mean between the summer and winter attendance.

42. The following table will show how this attendance compares with that in Woburn Union in

* These five schools are—a small preparatory school at Crunwere, a Baptist school at Llandissilio, and the schools in Llanfalteg, Monachlogddu, and Newmoat parishes.

† To any one who knows the union, and examines the returns in Table C., it will be apparent that the above statement fairly represents the school attendance of children under 13 years of age. By excluding Crunwere and Llangan, the proportion of attendance to population gains a little, as the bulk of the children in these two parishes attend schools, such as Llanboidy, Amroth, and Tavernspite, for which the returns are given; on the other hand, the proportion loses about as much by excluding Monachlogddu and Newmoat; to exclude Llandissilio and Llanfalteg does not affect the proportion. Again, a few out-union children are brought into the return by the British school in Llanboidy and the National school in Slebech parish, while, on the other hand, there is a corresponding loss from one or two other parishes on the border of the union.

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O. Bedfordshire, Woodstock Union in Oxfordshire, and Wantage Union in Berks, in which I dealt with school returns in the same manner :—

School attendance in Woburn Union, Beds, Woodstock Union, Oxon, Wantage Union, Berks, and Narberth Union compared.

Proportion of Children under 13 to Population.

	On the Register of some Elementary School.	In average Attendance at some Elementary School.
Woburn Union, Beds - - -	1 in 8½	1 in 11
Woodstock Union, Oxon - - -	1 in 7	1 in 9
Wantage Union, Berks - - -	1 in 7½	1 in 9
Narberth Union, South Wales - -	1 in 7⅓	1 in 11

While, therefore, taking all the children under 13, the proportion of such children on the register of some school in Narberth Union exceeds that in Woburn Union, (where straw-plaiting enters as a disturbing cause much more than agricultural labour), and is equal to the average of the more purely agricultural unions of Woodstock and Wantage, the average attendance falls to the level of Woburn Union, and shows that there is a much greater degree of irregularity in attendance on the part of the children in Narberth than in any of the unions with which I have compared it.

Causes of irregularity of attendance in Narberth Union.

43. The cause of this irregularity, which is the difficulty most complained of by school managers in South Wales, will be, to a certain extent, explained by examining the proportion of children under 10 years of age, as compared with those between 10 and 13. In Bedfordshire I found that there were four and a half times as many children under 10 as of children between 10 and 13 at school; in Bucks there were six times as many; in Oxfordshire and Berks about four times many; in Herts (where the proportion of girls to boys, in the case of children over 10, is very large) two and a half times as many; in Narberth Union (which fairly represents the two counties I am dealing with) the children under 10 only outnumber those between 10 and 13 by one half. If we take the case of boys alone, the difference is still more striking. In the five English counties the boys under 10 are to those over 10 as nearly six to one; in Narberth Union they exceed them by less than one half. Some part therefore of the irregularity complained of is due to the fact, that the average age of children attending elementary schools in South Wales is much greater than in the South Midland district in England, and extends to a time when the English children would have altogether left school, whereas the Welsh keep up an attendance rendered irregular by occasional farm work.

44. To continue the analysis of these returns. The attendance of both boys and girls under 10 falls off in winter, as might be expected from the state of roads and weather and the distance some of the children have to go to school; on the other hand, the attendance of both sexes when over 10 years of age increases in winter, the boys' by about 10, and the girls' by about 20 per cent., showing that a certain number of children between 10 and 13 years of age are free to attend school in winter, though prevented by other occupations from doing so in summer. That the winter increase for such girls considerably exceeds that of boys, shows that the services of girls between 10 and 13 are more in demand than those of boys of the same age; in point of fact, besides doing all the outside jobs which a boy of 11 or 12 can do, a girl of the same age is more handy to leave at home to look after the house and baby, while the mother is out at summer field work, and her education suffers accordingly.

45. That the Narberth Union school returns compare unfavourably with the English returns I have quoted for children under 10 seems to me to arise in some measure from the cause I pointed out when speaking of the school attendance in Derbyshire, viz. that as the school life goes on longer, there is not the same pressure for regular attendance when young.

Distribution of schools.

46. There is, however, another cause affecting injuriously the attendance of young children, which is, the distance many of them have to walk, owing as much to a bad distribution as to an absolute want of schools.

As far as this difficulty arises from a want of schools, the chief defaulting parishes in Narberth Union are :—

Cyffic,	with a population of	468,	and area of	4,556	acres.
Llanycefn	„	416	„	2,684	„
Llanglydwen	„	286	„	1,834	„
Llangolman	„	282	„	2,912	„
Pendine	„	204	„	900	„

The other 11 parishes which are without schools have populations varying from 191 to 40, and areas varying from 1,957 to 352 acres.

47. As to the supply and distribution of schools, the Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister of Narberth, speaking of North Pembrokeshire, which he knows well, says (Appendix A. 3) :—

"In many localities schools are very far from the children, two, three, or four miles perhaps. The schools are generally located near some church or chapel, without any regard to the distance of one school from another. According to the present system of Government aid, the most active of the religious bodies will get up a school in connexion (locally so) with their place of worship, which will be partly supported by Government aid, and we not unfrequently find three or four such schools within a radius of as many miles, while one or two would meet the requirements of the district if properly located."

"If a general educational system were adopted by Government, regard should be had to *distance* and *population*."

Church and dissenting schools.

48. Of the schools described in Table C. (Appendix C.) 17 are national, parochial, or endowed, and are managed by clergymen and landowners who are Churchmen, and 12 are British or private Baptist

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schools, and are managed by Dissenters, the greater part of whom are Baptists, the latter schools receiving very little aid from Churchmen. (). In some parishes, as for example, Cilmaenllwyd and Henllan-Amgoed, the educational field has been left entirely to the Dissenters; in others, such as Jeffreston, Maenclochog, Martletwy, and Slebech, it remains in the hands of Churchmen; in others, such as Amroth and Llandissilio, Church and Dissenting schools, all of them more or less poverty-stricken, keep up an unnecessary contest.

In large parishes, such as Llanboidy and Narberth, the fact that there are both Church and Dissenting schools I think tells favourably on education, though the National school in Llanboidy (the best school of any description which I visited in either Pembrokeshire or Carmarthen) is some five miles from the British school at Whitland in the same parish, and under the management of its chief supporter, Mr. Powell of Maesgwynne, provides an excellent education for children of all denominations.*

The religious difficulty.

49. In the "well worked" parish of Lampeter Velfrey I saw no evil arising from the competition of Church and Dissenting schools, but in others, such as Amroth and Llandissilio, *the religious difficulty* appears to me to be working unmixed evil, by keeping alive two poverty-stricken schools, where one well supported would do much better work than both. I have no doubt also that the religious difficulty has had a good deal to do with the total absence of schools in some of the parishes I have before referred to. There is, however, another difficulty which education has to contend with in Narberth Union as compared with the districts in England which I have visited under your orders, and that is the little interest (with some notable exceptions) taken in the schools by those classes to whom elsewhere they owe their chief success.

Educational difficulty arising from want of funds.

50. Through the kindness of the Ven. Archdeacon Clark I obtained an account of the income and expenditure of several schools in the Archdeaconry of St. David's. As far as these refer to Narberth Union, you will find a statement of their position in my notes on schools in Appendix C., as well as a similar statement for other schools from information given by teachers and managers.

As examples of what I mean by poverty-stricken, I would draw your attention to my notes on the schools in Amroth, Begelly, Llandissilio, Llangan, Ludchurch, Martletwy, and St. Issells parishes (*see* Nos. 71, 72, 73, 78, 79, 83, 84, 86, and 89). Men can no doubt live cheaper in South Wales than in the greater part of England, but living must be cheap indeed if you can expect to obtain the teaching power of an important parish at a salary, all told, of 10*s.* or 11*s.* a week. The total income of the Amroth National School was, for 1868—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Endowment - - -	15	0	0
Subscriptions - - -	8	4	6
School pence - - -	5	8	9
Total -	£28	13	3

The master's salary amounts to 21*l.*, with a cottage and small garden rent-free. In the same parish the teacher of the Baptist school receives only the children's pence, which last year amounted to 11*l.* 14*s.* This parish covers an area of 2,878 acres, and has 889 inhabitants, besides aiding in the education of Crunwere and St. Issells.

St. Issells' National School has about 150 children on the books, who are about equally divided between a master and mistress (in no way connected with each other). The master receives 26*l.*, and the mistress 12*l.* a year. The income of the school for 1868 was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Subscriptions - - -	10	6	0
Endowment - - -	15	0	0
School pence - - -	16	8	0
Total - - -	£41	14	0

The income of the Ludchurch (population, 264; acreage, 1,607) school amounted, according to the Archdeacon's return, to 9*l.* 11*s.*, including subscriptions and school pence; of this the master received 9*l.*

School-houses.

51. The master's salary, however, is only one, though the most important, of the signs of poverty. I confess I would like to see the face of a certificated English master of the usual stamp, if he was sent to exercise his talents in such buildings as the parochial schools of Begelly or Llandissilio.

52. No wonder then that the Rev. W. D. Phillips, one of the Diocesan Inspectors of the district, says, in a letter addressed to me (*see* Appendix B. 35a),—

"In the 12 schools which come under my notice, I should pronounce four efficient, and doing really good work. The remainder certainly are the means of diffusing knowledge, but not to the extent or of the accuracy which is desirable. The causes are not far to seek, but to describe them would need not a letter, but a report of a somewhat elaborate character."

Educational rate.

53. If there is to be any speedy remedy of such a state of things I cannot help thinking that an educational rate must form an important feature in it.

I have considered the adoption of a rating principle as it would apply to Narberth Union pretty closely, and the conclusion I have come to is this: that to work such a system cheaply, as well as efficiently, the first step would be to declare the Union an educational district, for the purpose of levying a district rate. As soon as this was done it would be the duty of an inspector, either appointed

* The following is a copy of the School Inspector's Report on Llanboidy National School, dated 8th May 1869:—"The order "in this school is excellent, the efficiency very superior. As regards management and instruction this is quite a model school." I am afraid there are not very many schools in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke of which an inspector could report as favourably (*see* Appendix C. 82). The number of children on the register of this school at the time of my visit was 190, of whom about 35 were over 13 years of age.—G. C. Llanboidy national school.

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O. by the local authority (whose constitution would depend on the incidence of the rate) or by the Government, to survey the district, and determine the position, number, and character of the schools necessary to meet its educational wants, utilizing existing schools as far as possible (the promoters being compensated out of the district fund). All endowments for the promotion of elementary education I would carry to the credit of the common fund, applying them in reduction of the rate.

All such schools should, I think, receive a Government grant, in no case exceeding one-third of the expenses of the school, the remaining two-thirds being divided as nearly as possible between the school pence and rate. In some districts the parents would be perfectly willing to pay such a contribution as would amount to one-third of the expenses of the schools; in fact they now do so. In others, where low wages prevent them from doing so, the local rate, and not the State grant, should be increased.

An important use of a local authority would be to deal with the case of those children whose parents are altogether unable to contribute to their children's education, the contribution in such cases, as well as that of orphan children, being thrown upon the district rate.

If (as I hope may some day be the case) all rates were paid in equal shares by owners and occupiers, it would be a very simple beginning to such a scheme to declare Unions Educational Districts, and constitute a committee of the guardians, consisting of an equal number of owners and occupiers, the local authority.

I have dwelt somewhat longer on this subject than may perhaps seem necessary, because I am convinced that the first, if not the only thing required to promote education in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke is to establish efficient schools, and the cheapest as well as the speediest way of doing this would be by creating educational districts, and levying a district rate.

Desire to educate their children is rapidly spreading amongst the labouring class, and renders Governmental interference unnecessary except in providing schools.

54. The desire to educate their children is rapidly spreading amongst the labouring class in these two counties, and the extent to which youthful labour is employed in agriculture interferes so little with school attendance that I perfectly agree with the opinion expressed by almost every witness I examined on the subject, *that no restriction as to the age at which children should be permitted to be employed in farm labour is required, either to promote their education or to protect them from physical injury arising from the nature of their employment.*

If any legislative interference is needed, which I think is not the case, it should be either in the form of a direct compulsion on the parents to send their children to school, or of an educational certificate renewable yearly till the children reach 12 years of age.*

The following resolution of the Board of Guardians for Narberth Union is, I think, very much to the point:—

"That there is no need of restricting the labour of children employed in agriculture in this Union, inasmuch as children under 13 years of age are very little employed. Any pressure necessary for the sake of education should be put directly on the parents, amongst whom, however, there is a growing appreciation of the benefit of educating their children." †

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* The following are the opinions on this subject of some of those witnesses who are most interested in the cause of education :—

The Ven. the Archdeacon of St. David's says (Appendix A. 2)—

"No restriction as to age is required, there is no reason why boys should not attend school during the greater part of the year, if their parents would send them. . . . . The school attendance throughout the archdeaconry is generally good, where there are schools conveniently near."

The Rev. W. Owen, Baptist Minister (Appendix A. 3), asks only for—

"A more equally distributed means of education, free and unsectarian."

Mr. C. Bishop, Clerk of the Peace for the county of Carmarthen, says (Appendix A. 4)—

". . . a limit, unless education be compulsory, would be injurious. In most parts of the county, except in remote localities, there are either National or British schools within reach, and the labouring classes are not indisposed to take advantage of them; still when the children are able to undertake employment and can obtain it, the parents will not lose the chance for the sake of schooling."

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 6)—

"Generally advantage is taken of the means of instruction. Where three or four children of the same poor parents go to school, sometimes 2*d.* or 3*d.* head is felt a heavy charge on small wages. No shoes or clothes fit to go to school in is often the excuse to keep children at home."

Mr. W. D. H. Campbell Davys, Chairman of the Llandovery Board of Guardians, says (Appendix B. 69)—

"I think it is by no means desirable to interfere as both the children and their parents are *quite alive* to the importance of attending school."

The Rev. R. B. Jones, Vicar of Cilmaenllwyd, says (Appendix B. 37)—

"A good school would inevitably secure a good attendance."

The Rev. R. Lewis, Rector of Lampeter-Velfrey, and Rural Dean, in whose parish every encouragement is given to parents to send their children to school, says (Appendix B. 43)—

"The parents generally allow the children to do as they like, they are themselves indifferent about education. Where there is a popular master the children like going to school and have their own way. Early labour is not in my opinion a preventing cause."

Mr. W. R. H. Powell, of Maesgwynne (Appendix B. 44), speaking of Llanboidy National School, says—

"A good attendance, drawn from a radius of quite three miles, may be cited as proof that the means of education are generally taken advantage of, but the benefits of education in too many cases are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration to be derived from child labour. The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the school children should be made to speak English during play hours."

The Rev. T. Walters, Vicar of Maenclochog, says (Appendix B. 55)—

"The school-house is a wretched one, which prevents us getting any Government aid. The children take advantage of it, and it is crowded in winter."

On the other hand, the Rev. John Phelps, Vicar of Carew (in the English quarter), says (Appendix B. 29)—

"All the children may attend school by paying 1*d.* weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

The Rev. J. D. Palmour, Vicar of Jeffreston, also in the English quarter, speaks in the same unfavourable terms of the conduct of the parents.

The Rev. W. D. Phillips, Rector of Amroth (also in the English quarter) and diocesan inspector, says (Appendix B., 35)—

"The attendance of children is irregular; the parents desire their children to be educated, but seem careless as to the amount, and ignorant that it can be obtained only by diligence and regularity of attendance; the indifference of parents is the great obstacle to education."

† The Haverfordwest Guardians say (Appendix A. 13)—

"Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals; any child up to 12 years of age might attend school for eight months in the year."

The Carmarthen Guardians say (Appendix A. 14)—

"It is not desirable that children should be employed under 12 years of age, but no legislative restriction is necessary in this union."

And again—

"The parents generally take advantage of the schools, where, as is usually the case, there is no difficulty on the score of religious teaching."

The Llandovery Guardians say (Appendix A. 15)—

"There is no parish in the union without a school; all who can (and most parents can) send their children to school."

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It is this evidently "growing appreciation" of the value of education which inclines me to think that nothing more is needed than to establish efficient schools. O.

55. If, however, my report had reference only or chiefly to the English quarter of the counties ("Little-England-beyond-Wales"), I fear that I could not have spoken so hopefully. In that district, at least in some parts of it, there is more temptation to keep children from school, as, for instance, in the colliery district, where boys and girls, after they reach 10 years of age, can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day separating culm (the dust or small of anthracite coal) from earth at the pit mouths (Appendix B. 35 b., 41a and 41b). There is also a larger proportion of arable land in that district, and therefore a greater demand for youthful labour. Whatever the cause may be, I saw much stronger evidence of a desire to educate their children amongst the Welsh proper than amongst the inhabitants of the English quarter. Education in English and Welsh districts of South Wales

56. The very fact which for a long time kept the Welsh, educationally, in outer darkness (for this desire to educate their children is apparently of very recent birth) is now aiding the cause of education. They could not speak English, and the loss they sustained by their inability was never brought home to them till railways put the prizes of the outer world, as it were, before their eyes. Then indeed the Welshman, anxious to secure some of these prizes for his children, saw that the first step must be to teach them the language of the prizeholders, and to do this he must send them to school. It is with the Welsh as with the Scotch, a desire to get their children out in the world, "to "better themselves," that induces the parents to send their children to school, and a feeling of this kind once aroused needs no governmental pressure to aid it. Cause of the increased desire amongst the Welsh labourers to educate their children.

As an example of the spirit that is abroad, Mr. W. R. H. Powell, in his evidence (Appendix B. 44), speaking of Llanboidy National School, says,—

"The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the children should be made to speak English during play hours."

Again, the account of his prospects given to me by a boy who drove me one day from Narberth Road Station will serve as a typical instance of the cause of the increased desire for education. After telling me that he was nearly 12 years old, that he could neither read nor write, and that the nearest schoolmaster was "good for nothing to teach anybody anything," the said schoolmaster having failed to teach him reading and writing in a month, he said,—

"My father's going to send me to school at Haverfordwest, and if I can get to be a scholar my brother says he can get me a place in London on the Great Western Railway."

South Wales was, a very short time ago, and probably is now, one of the worst educated districts in the United Kingdom; but all this will soon be changed. The thrifty and independent Welshman, who cares very little for parish boundaries, has found out that education means higher wages, and so he makes haste to educate himself.

Cottages.

57. A general description of the cottage accommodation in 35 parishes (25 of which are in Narberth Union), as given by very competent witnesses, will be found in Appendix B.; and the following is, I think, a fair summary of this evidence. General description of cottage accommodation.

The cottages are described as *bad*, or *poor*, or *not good* in 24 parishes; in 10 parishes they are said to be *fair*, or *tolerably good*, or *improving*; in one parish they are described as *good*.

58. It will be well, I think, to preface any remarks which I have to make on this subject by quoting a few examples of evidence applicable to areas larger than parishes. Examples of evidence on state of cottages.

Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor (Appendix A. 1) says:—

"The state of cottages throughout the country (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen) is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultural interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, or convenience of the occupants; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy floors and walls, the former often of earth; frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor and no upper rooms: overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door."

The Rev. Archdeacon Clark (Appendix A. 2) says:—

"The cottages generally throughout the county are not good; small, ill-ventilated, with plaster or flagged floors, and with only two rooms on the ground floor, the upper rooms (if any) being dark lofts or attics under the roof not fit for occupation. They are generally too small for even a small family, and therefore overcrowded, and the usual results to morality have followed. . . . Few cottages have decent privies."

The Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister of Narberth, speaking of the county of Pembroke, says (Appendix A. 3):—

"The state of labourers' cottages generally is very bad; badly constructed; one floor, and one room on that floor, partly divided by some article of furniture; damp walls; earth floors; smoky chimnies; a small window or two, often no more than a square foot, and never opened; no out-offices, or any accommodation whatever."

The Board of Guardians for Haverfordwest Union gave me the following answer to my inquiry on this subject (Appendix A. 13):—

"The condition of cottages is generally bad."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians answered (Appendix A. 14):—

"The cottages in the Union are as a rule bad."

The Guardians for Llandovery Union answered more cheerfully (Appendix A. 15):—

"Cottages have been greatly improved of late years; the old cottages and old farm houses are deficient in accommodation, but they are fast disappearing.

I did not ask the Narberth Union guardians to describe the state of cottages in their Union as I satisfied myself on the subject by a personal examination, and I think the Board will allow me to answer for them, that *the condition of labourers' dwellings in Narberth Union is generally bad.*

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Description of the ordinary cottage in the rural districts of South Wales.

59. The ordinary form of cottage in South Wales is a rectangular building about 20 feet by 12 (inside measurement), with walls of mud (clay and straw mixed) or stone about 8 feet high. The mud cottage is almost always covered with straw thatch, while the stone cottage is now more usually slated. In the middle of the front wall is the door with a small window on each side. Running back from each side of the door for 6 or 8 feet, and about as high as the door, are partitions, often formed by the back of a box bed or chest of drawers, by means of which partitions the inside space is divided into two small rooms, in one of which is a wide fireplace surmounted by a conical chimney. The whole interior is open to the roof, except where boards or wattled hurdles are stuck across the heads of the walls to support childrens' beds. The floor is usually of mud or puddled clay. The only outside office is the pigsty, generally built against the end of the cottage.

Such is a description of probably four-fifths of the labourers' cottages in the districts I visited. There are worse, and there are a few better, though where it is said, as it several times is, in the evidence, that the cottage accommodation is improving, or that the old mud cottages are gradually disappearing, the improvement more frequently arises from the total disappearance of old cottages than from the fact that they have been replaced by better ones.

Diminution in the number of cottages.

60. Nothing struck me more in Narberth Union than the number of ruined cottages unrepresented by any modern substitute. Between the adjoining small parishes of Minwere and Newton there are, I think, at least 10 remains of what within the last 30 years were cottages, and I am not aware that any one of these has been replaced.*

It may be, as a general rule, that, as the agricultural population has decreased from other causes, landowners have allowed their poorest cottages to remain untenanted and fall into decay; but this can scarcely be pleaded in favour of the parishes I have just alluded to, as, from the evidence of Mr. Theophilus Llewellyn, an occupier of 280 acres in Minwere parish, there is a decided scarcity of labour, arising from the fact that so many cottages have been pulled down or allowed to become uninhabitable.

Mr. Llewellyn says (Appendix B. 57):—

"I would have more land in tillage if I could get labour conveniently. I can only get a labourer occasionally, when I pay him, in winter 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and his food, and in summer 2*s.* a day and food. There is only one cottage on my farm; there were a good many at one time, but they were pulled down or allowed to fall down."

Again, Mr. W. H. Shield, a landowner and occupier in Lampeter Velfrey parish, in Narberth Union, says (Appendix B. 43a):—

"The cottages have been allowed to become ruins throughout the whole district, so much so that were farmers with capital to be desirous of cultivating the land there are no cottages for them without rebuilding, and that to a considerable extent."

Feeling in the district that the want of decent dwellings is driving away the agricultural population.

61. There is, moreover, a strong feeling in the district that the want of decent dwellings is driving away the rural population to an extent that injuriously affects the agricultural interest.

At a meeting of the United Counties (Cardigan, Pembroke, and Carmarthen) Chamber of Agriculture, held on the 7th of July last, a paper on "The necessity for house accommodation for the "agricultural population" was read by Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis, of Henllan, a landowner and magistrate of Pembrokeshire. In the earlier part of this paper Mr. Lewis says:—

"To you who are acquainted with the dwellings of the labourers and small farmers of these three Western counties, the mall two-roomed cottage, with its mud floor, having hardly any light, and badly ventilated, it is unnecessary for me to show that an improvement of their habitations is required."

And after describing the means by which in his opinion labourers' cottages might be improved, Mr. Lewis ends thus:—

"Let us then endeavour to devise the means of retaining our agricultural population amongst us, let us endeavour to supply them with the accommodation without which I am satisfied they will leave us."

On the other hand, except in close parishes where cottages have been pulled down to save poor's rate, the evidence I received shows that the counties are fairly supplied with cottages as far as number is concerned; and any pressure, either from above or below, which might tend to improve their quality, would at the same time, now that union rating is established, tend towards a better distribution.

Cottages in Pembroke and Carmarthen compared with those in Beds and Bucks.

62. Although the proportion of good cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen is smaller than in any English county which I have inspected, I was more seldom shocked by the feeling that I was examining a building totally unfit for human habitation, than, as for instance, in the counties of Bedford and Buckingham.

Domestic habits of the Welsh and Southern English.

63. How far this feeling was affected by the fact that I stood on the mud floors, and within the mud walls during a very dry summer, or by the fact that the women of South Wales are much better housewives than the women of the South Midland counties of England, I do not know; but I wish to testify in favour of the Welsh labourers' wives, that, except in the north of England and in Scotland, I never saw such a general endeavour to make a poor dwelling look its best. Nor should I fail to say for the husbands, that, although they earn lower wages and receive less aid from their children's earnings than their fellows in any of the southern English counties which I have visited, their thrifty habits allow their houses to show signs of comfort and well-to-doism which might put to shame their better-paid brethren.†

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* Mr. William Philipps, relieving officer, Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 19)—

"In many small parishes cottages were discontinued for the purpose of preventing parties becoming chargeable to the poor rates; this evil has how been remedied by the Union Chargeability Act. At present there are not sufficient dwellings for labourers. Several large estates have few cottages, and those that have fallen into decay are seldom or ever replaced."

Mr. Daniel Williams, relieving officer of Llandovery Union, says (Appendix A. 28)—

"In one parish alone there are 40 cottages less than when I first remember it."

† The evidence of Mrs. Scorey, the wife of a Hampshire labourer, now settled in Narberth parish, is somewhat to the point here. Mrs. Scorey says (Appendix B. 58c)—

"We came here from Hampshire. Labourers' wages here are 10*s.* a week, where we came from (North Hampshire) they were 12*s.* I think the people here live very hard, but not because they are forced to do it; they sell the best they have, and put up with anything. They live a good deal on barley-bread, potatoes, and Welsh cheese (worth from 2*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb.). We use white bread, and make our own bread. I like the people here as well as I did those in Hampshire."

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64. In the paper which I have referred to above, Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis says that two things are necessary to enable the farmers to retain the services of good labourers, viz., better cottage accommodation and better wages. For my own part, I am convinced that it is simply the chance of better wages, now brought nearer them, that is tempting the Welsh peasants to leave the rural districts, just as the same chance is inducing them to educate their children. O. Duty of landowners as to providing cottages.

However desirable it may be that better cottages should be provided, and that the labouring class themselves should quicken that provision by demanding it, there is, as far as I know, no district in England which could be quoted to justify the belief that the "cottage question" may be left to right itself by pressure from below.

If it be the landowner's duty to see that there is a good school within a reasonable distance of the cottages on his estate, it is far more his duty to see that those cottages are not such as to make it impossible to teach in that school anything better than reading, writing, and ciphering.

As nearly all the cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen belong to the landowners, it is more evidently their duty to make every endeavour in their power to give their labourers dwellings in which the ordinary decencies of life may be observed. I say every endeavour in their power, as in many districts it is too evident that the great cottage difficulty is the poverty of the landowning class.

65. Those landowners, who have the power, have before them the example of the Earl of Cawdor, who has not only recently built several improved cottages, but has also published a book of "Cottage Plans," which, as his Lordship says in the preface, "may be useful to landowners and tenants anxious "to provide decent accommodation for their labourers." The Earl of Cawdor's "cottage plans."

66. Lord Cawdor addresses his book of Cottage Plans to tenants as well as landowners, no doubt because a considerable number of farms with the cottages attached to them are let on "leases for lives," and in such cases it may be said that some part of the responsibility of the landowner is shifted to the leaseholder. The result is, that as the responsibility is divided it is accepted by neither. This difficulty of cottages attached to farms let on leases for lives was pointed out to me by Mr. Gower, of Clyn Derwen, a landowner of Pembrokeshire, and the only conclusion I could come to, after discussing the subject with him, was, that as such leases are as great an impediment to agricultural improvement as to cottage improvement, it behoves landowners to strain every nerve to get rid of them. Leases for lives.

Small Farms, Gardens, and Allotments.

67. Finding a large number of very small farms in my district, I endeavoured to obtain evidence from all persons willing and competent to give it, on the comparative merits of large and small holdings as affecting agriculture, as well as on the desirability of small holdings as affecting the comfort and advancement of the peasant class. Small farms as affecting agriculture;

As affecting improvement in agriculture, the evidence I received seems to me entirely to confirm the opinion which I expressed in a former report, that it is impossible for agriculture to make any decided advance in a district where the holdings are so small as to make it unprofitable for the occupier to employ the ordinary mechanical aids which increase the produce of a farm at the same time that they lessen the cost of production.*

68. As to the effect of small holdings on the comfort and advancement of the peasant class, Mr. C. Bishop, clerk of the peace for the county of Carmarthen, says (Appendix A. 1), as affecting the peasant class

"In my opinion the labourer with constant work is better off, and enabled to command more of the necessary comforts of life than the small farmer who pays from 10*l.* to 20*l.* a year for rent, and who lives harder than the inmates of the workhouse."

Mr. G. Jones, vice-chairman of the Llandovery Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 7),—

"Labourers receiving 10*s.* a week are better off than tenants paying up to 20*l.* a year rent."

Mr. Daniels Williams, relieving officer of the same union, says (Appendix A. 28),—

"I think our labourers are better off than small farmers, say, than farmers paying 20*l.* a year rent, and they educate their children better. The children of small farmers are often sent to work before they are fit for it."

Mr. J. J. Johnston, relieving officer, Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 22),—

"These 20 acre farms in my district are generally poor land and pay about 10*s.* an acre rent. Unless a man with 40 acres of such land has something else to do, he is not better off than a labourer."

Other witnesses give similar evidence, and it is perfectly evident that in South Wales, as elsewhere, peasant farmers are not only obliged themselves to work harder than ordinary labourers, but are obliged also to make their children work at a very early age.

69. There are, however, redeeming features in a system of very small farms, which are so well put by Mr. H. P. Goode, land agent, in his evidence (Appendix A. 5), that I shall take the liberty of quoting him without further remark. Mr. Goode says:— Labour of small farmers.

"The smaller farms, whose tenants occupy from 5 to 100 acres, of which there are a great number in this country, employ their own children, both boys and girls, at a very early age to look after their cows, watch over their crops to keep off birds, watch their bees, and the little girls do the house work, whilst their parents are employed in the fields. They are generally a very industrious race; and when the girls and boys come

* Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor, a very competent authority on such a subject as this, says (Appendix A. 1)— Mr. T. T. Mousley on small farms.

"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales are the want of capital, and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small, and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend upon. Landlords ought by degrees to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small farmsteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise. *If they do not, the country must remain as at present, very little in advance of a state of nature as regards farming.*"

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O. up to 14, 15, or 16 years they go to service, some to farms, others to families; the girls as nursemaids, under housemaids, and maids of all work to small establishments. They carry with them their industrious habits, and in good considerate families make first rate servants."

Cow allotments. 70. Where a farm or allotment of five or six acres is of such a character as to enable a man to keep one or two cows without withdrawing him from his legitimate occupation as a farm labourer, there is the same evidence as I found in Derbyshire, that the charge of the little dairy is a much better occupation for his wife than ordinary field work, or, indeed, than any other work I have seen labourers' wives engaged in.*

Cottage gardens. 71. As almost every cottage in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke has a fair-sized garden attached to it, and a large majority of the labourers have in addition potato land allowed by their employers, cultivated allotments as distinguished from gardens are very little known. A plot of three acres allotted by the Inclosure Commissioners to the poor of Pendine parish remains uncultivated, though I dare say its situation has as much to do with its present state as the indisposition of the people to take advantage of their rights.

Potato ground. 72. The custom of giving a labourer potato ground, on which the labour is performed by the farmer, is an excellent one, and although its pecuniary value is reduced by the exaction of service in harvest, it still has the effect of, as it were, compelling him to spend a certain portion of his wages for the benefit of his family.†

Pauperism.

Administration of the Poor Law. 73. I have quoted in evidence a portion of an article published on the 4th of September last in "The Welshman," a paper of considerable repute in South Wales, to show that the same action which I drew your attention to in my report on Oxfordshire and Berks is going on in South Wales to the increase of pauperism. The writer of this article says:—

"Every step in the recent legislation on this subject has been made in the direction of spreading the cost of maintaining the poor over the whole surface of the union; and perhaps, all considered, the steps taken have been in the right direction. Still, however, an abuse has sprung up, the remedy for which can only be found in the good sense of the guardians. As long as each individual parish felt the burden of maintaining its own poor, there existed a strong inducement for the guardians to see that the relief of individual paupers was not excessive. Now, however, since the relief of the individual is borne by the union generally, the fact that the aggregate of the expense to the union is increased is lost sight of in the desire of many good-natured and easy-going guardians to see that their own poor are tenderly, we were going to say too tenderly, cared for. . . . . There is in the minds of many guardians a feeling somewhat akin to that spoken of by Sydney Smith when describing a sort of pseudo-benevolence which led the person affected by it never to see a case of distress without wishing that somebody else would relieve it, the somebody else in this case being represented by the union at large. It is difficult to counteract this tendency, and we almost fear it can only be done by the appointment of a sort of supervisor of the relief list, who would have no local sympathies to sway him in the pursuit of his duty."

A public supervisor of the relief list might no doubt help towards a stricter administration of the law, but his action would have a levelling tendency, and would be a hindrance instead of an aid towards solving what to my mind is the great difficulty, viz., how not to reduce the industrious man temporarily or permanently disabled to the same level as the idle vagabond who will not work, or who has by dissipation reduced himself to a state unfit for work; how to teach the labouring class that industry, under any circumstances, will have its reward. Nothing but a close examination of the character of the persons seeking relief can effect this, and I cannot see how you could succeed without leaving a certain amount of discretion in the hands of a local authority.

74. There are three great bars to agricultural improvement in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen,—a very wet climate, heavily-burdened estates, and small holdings; but I look very hopefully on the prospects of the labouring class. Only put the means of education within their reach, and I feel sure that they are perfectly able and willing to take care of themselves.

After thanking you for having sent me to inspect these two interesting counties,

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. CULLEY.

Fowberry Tower,
10th Dec. 1869.

* The merits and demerits of a system of small farms are exceedingly well treated by Mr. Jas. Howard, M.P., in a paper on "Continental Farming," read by him at a recent meeting of the Central Farmers' Club.

† Potato ground forms a considerable item in the wages of a farm labourer in many counties of England, and, if a column is to be added to the third table of the Agricultural Returns, "showing the acreage employed in cottage gardens and allotments," I cannot help thinking that where the custom of a district causes a farmer to provide potato ground, such a provision is almost as much entitled to notice as a cottager's garden or allotment. Every farmer who makes such an allowance could easily enter the quantity in his return.

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REPORT of Mr. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE on Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour to present my report on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture for the three counties of Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, which, in compliance with your instructions, I visited in the autumn of 1869 for the purpose of inquiring and ascertaining to what extent and with what modifications the principles of the Factory Acts could be adopted for the regulation of such employments, especially with a view to the better education of such children. P.

2. The three counties assigned to me in the above inquiry, although possessing many social features in common, have nevertheless certain distinctive peculiarities. The counties visited partly differ from and partly resemble each other.

Cardiganshire is almost exclusively Welsh in its character, and that language is still exclusively spoken by at least three-fourths of the population.

In Montgomeryshire there is a well defined line of demarcation between two portions of the county, in one-half of which the Welsh and in the other the English language is spoken. The separation is well marked by the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy. Merionethshire, an extremely mountainous county, is essentially Welsh.

3. There are extensive districts in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire in which the condition of the population is materially affected by mines and manufactures.

4. I propose in the following remarks to consider each county separately with reference to the subjects on which I was instructed to report.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

5. This county contained in 1861 a population of 71,178. It possesses considerable diversities of soil. Cardiganshire. The fertile loam of the coast produces excellent crops of grain, while the hill districts are devoted to sheep walks and small farms for rearing cattle. It was intimated to me that it would be sufficient for the purposes of the inquiry if I selected a portion of each county as a specimen district, by a careful investigation of which a correct general impression might be formed of the whole in reference to the points suggested for inquiry; but Cardiganshire varies so much in the rate of wages and in the condition of the population that I found it impossible to fix upon any single district as conveying a just conception of its general economical condition. I therefore considered it desirable to visit portions of the county widely distant from each other.

These districts were, 1, the vicinity of Aberystwith; 2, the highly cultivated distri[illegible] Aberayron; and, 3, the country in the neighbourhood of Lampeter.

From these three districts I was enabled to acquire a sufficient amount of inform[illegible]rive at a satisfactory conclusion in reference to the subjects on which information was desired.

6. I found the employment of women in agriculture very general in Cardiganshire. Female farm servants who are engaged by the year and boarded and lodged in the farmhouses, are throughout the county hired expressly as agricultural labourers. They perform a large portion of the outdoor work of every farm, with the exception of ploughing. There is indeed a redundancy of female labour in The employment of women in agriculture very general in Cardiganshire.

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P. Cardiganshire, and women migrate in large numbers from the southern to the northern portion of the county, and into Montgomeryshire, offering their temporary services to any farmer who may happen to be short of hands. At harvest time their wages are 1*s.* 6*d.* a day with food.

Employment of women.

7. In the ordinary routine of farm work the women servants tend cattle, clean out the stalls, load dung carts, plant and dig potatoes, hoe, take up, top and tail turnips, and in the spring drive the harrow, but they are never trusted with horses and carts on the high road.

Wages of women labourers.

8. The ordinary wages of female farm servants in agriculture are from 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year with board. A day female agricultural labourer is generally paid 8*d.* a day with nothing extra. On the extensive farm of Mr. Miller, of Morfumaur, near Aberayron, 19 young unmarried women are regularly employed as agricultural labourers at these wages throughout the year; they live with their parents in cottages at no great distance from the farm. Married women thus employed are paid from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

Women robust and healthy.

9. The women whom I observed engaged in field labour seemed to be robust and healthy, and in reply to my inquiries as to their general efficiency as labourers I was told that for many descriptions of farm work they are considered quite equal to men.

Employment of females has diminished.

10. The employment of females in Cardiganshire has, however, considerably diminished within the last 25 years. It was stated to me by many clergymen, magistrates, and land agents that the number of women employed in agriculture in that county is certainly not now more than one-half what it was within their recollection. I may add that several farmers expressed themselves as opposed to the employment of females in field labour, considering such employment to be both economically false and morally wrong.

Employment of women in agriculture not the special cause of immorality.

11. The laxity of morals among the female peasantry of Wales is unhappily notorious. The inveterate custom of night courting has destroyed all delicacy of character, and although marriage often follows such irregular proceedings the rate of illegitimacy is high. In the face of the well-known Welsh custom of "bundling," which is not confined to the agricultural population, I cannot charge to the employment of women in agriculture the immorality which undoubtedly prevails.

Gangs unknown.

12. Agricultural gangs are quite unknown in this county, nor are children employed in early labour to any considerable extent, except by their parents on the small farms in the mountain districts. Very young children are habitually employed for perhaps half the year in tending cattle and sheep. This employment, which is very common, prevents a great number from attending school for many months of the year.

Children not hired out by the day.

13. I did not find it generally the practice of parents to hire out their children by the day, and they avail themselves, where practicable, of every opportunity of sending them to school. There is, in fact, no regular or constant demand for the labour of children, a few weeks in the barking season and the hay and corn harvests, being the only periods at which their services are required. I was informed by Lt.-Col. Lewes, a county magistrate, that he had found difficulty in getting a boy to carry a post bag daily three-quarters of a mile, and still greater in hiring one to scare crows.

Children hired as farm servants very young.

14. Although the employment of children in gangs is unknown, it is to be regretted that by the custom of the county they are hired into farm service so young as to almost entirely neutralise any benefit which they may have previously derived from their education. Boys go to service at from 9 to 12 years of age, and when once in service only in very rare instances is any portion of their time given to self-improvement. Unfortunately, the poverty of many parents is such as to make it a matter of the greatest importance to get their children off their hands at as early an age as possible, and it has certainly been found that physically boys often make great and rapid progress after they leave home and its privations for the comparative abundance of a farmhouse.

Another mode of hiring children.

15. There is in Cardiganshire another mode of hiring children at an early age which does not wholly separate them from their parents, or deprive them of the power of attending school for a portion of the year. On many farms boys are found useful at 10 years of age, and they are employed for eight months in the year for sixpence a day, and are boarded in the farmhouses. They return home for the winter months, during which they generally attend school, but such partial attendance would be barely sufficient to enable them to keep up the little that had been acquired before their engagement on a farm.

Farm servants' wages, &c.

16. Farm servants are hired by the year at the hiring fairs which are held periodically in the chief towns of the county. The wages of a head man, who is generally the ploughman, seldom exceed 16*l.* a year, but in rare instances 20*l.* are given, and inferior servants are paid from 8*l.* to 10*l.* a year; women from 6*l.* to 8*l.* with food.

Moderate as these wages are, savings banks and benefit societies are occasionally taken advantage of by this class. An instance was mentioned to me of a farm servant whose highest wages amounted to 9*l.* 10*s.* a year, who had deposited 150*l.* in a savings bank.

Diet in farm-houses.

17. The food supplied in the farmhouses to farm servants generally consists of flummery (boiled oatmeal), with bread made of wheat and rye or maze frequently of barley alone for breakfast; salt beef, bacon, or broth two or three times a week for dinner; bread, cheese, and milk for supper. Beer, and occasionally fresh mutton, are given at harvest time, but fresh meat is never tasted at any other time.

I often heard unfavourable opinions expressed of the efficiency of agricultural labourers in Cardiganshire. That the low estimate formed of them is caused mainly by the general inferiority of the diet may be inferred from the fact that whenever a native has been enabled to live better, by being engaged, for example, in the construction of a railway, his employers have rarely had any cause to complain either of the quality of his work or of his alacrity in performing it.

Diet of small farmers and agricultural labourers.

18. The diet of the smaller class of farmers and of day agricultural labourers is inferior to that of farm servants; even salt meat is rarely tasted, barley, or oat cake with potatoes and a little butter or cheese, forming the staple of their ordinary meals. It was remarked, in an article on the farming of South Wales in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society for 1852 that in general field work, where strength and exertion are required, Welsh labourers are much inferior to English labourers, and that a Lincolnshire workman at half-a-crown a day is not dearer than most Welsh labourers at a shilling. As a proof of this it may be stated that task work cannot be done cheaper in Cardiganshire than in the east of England, and until Welsh labourers are better fed they cannot be physically capable of sustaining with the same ease the fatigue of a hard day's work as the labourers of the many parts of England. The wages of agricultural labourers vary, as I before observed, in different parts of the

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county. The highest being 12s. a week, the lowest 8s.; but with the lower rate of wages are generally associated privileges, which somewhat increase the rate of remuneration, and may bring it up to perhaps 10s. per week. Thus, with low money wages a cottage is sometimes given rent free; some labourers are also allowed to grow potatoes on their employer's land, for which privilege they are required to give two days labour in harvest for each bushel of potatoes planted. P.

19. A custom exists in one part of the county of paying a labourer low wages but providing him with a portion of his food and a cottage free, as in the district between Aberayron and Lampeter, where I found the rate of wages for an agricultural labourer sixpence a day with food or ninepence without food, but in the latter case with a cottage and good garden at a rent of 1*l.* a year with rates and taxes paid. A singular mode of paying labour was mentioned to me as prevailing in one portion of the county. A farmer provides a labourer with a cottage rent free, together with pasture for a cow, and pays him in money, when he requires his services, sixpence a day. The labourer may earn higher wages elsewhere when not needed by his master, but he is bound to return and work for sixpence a day whenever he is required to do so, on pain of forfeiting his cottage and being deprived of the pasture for his cow. This is, however, I believe, quite a local custom. Modes of payment.

20. Landed property is much subdivided in Cardiganshire, and the farms in general are small. In the union of Aberayron, for example, a district containing 11 parishes comprising 65,704 acres, there are but nine farms of 300 acres each, and only one farm of 400 acres, the great majority ranging from 20 to 80 acres each. The county contains a great number of small freeholders, who cultivate their own land aided by their families, rarely employing hired labour. These numerous freeholds originated in the frequent sales of Crown lands which have taken place in this county. Subdivision of landed property.

21. The average value of land in the Aberayron union, a district containing some of the best arable land in the county, but also considerable tracts of moorland, I was informed by Mr. Daniel Thomas, of Aberayron, an experienced land agent, does not exceed 10s. an acre. Average value of land.

22. The hill farms have generally extensive sheep runs, and are occupied by a class of men who may be termed shepherds rather than farmers, and the houses, or rather the hovels, in which they reside on the hill sides are of the most wretched description, without fences to protect them from the intrusion of cattle and sheep, the dung of which is allowed to accumulate close to the dwelling and to form an indurated mass. The children of these small farmers, or shepherds, are, as I have before observed, employed for many months in the year in tending cattle and sheep, and preventing them from straying beyond the legal boundaries of the pasture, and even when there is a school within a reasonable distance from home, which is not often the case, it is seldom taken advantage of. The wild and solitary life passed by these children among the hills in idleness and listlessness for a considerable portion of the year is certainly not calculated to produce a favourable effect upon their character. The hill farms.

23. The farmhouses on the small farms are, generally speaking, very defective, not only in sanitary arrangements but in proper sleeping accommodation. An instance was mentioned to me by a county magistrate in which the men and women servants all sleep in a loft together, separated only by a row of boxes; and by another magistrate I was informed that in a great many of the small farmhouses the male and female servants have only one room in common. Farmhouses.

24. The great blot upon this county is the condition of its cottages. The exteriors sometimes promise well, but are deceptive. There is an appearance of neatness in the thatched roof and whitewashed walls which creates at first a favourable impression. The practice of whitewashing the walls, and not unfrequently the roofs with lime, which is mentioned by a Welsh bard of the sixth century, is still very generally practised. In some places it is common to mix clay with the lime for colouring the walls yellow, and the slate roofs are washed white. Nothing, however, can be conceived more wretched than the interior of most of these habitations. The cottage has often only one room, which is divided into two compartments, in one of which the cooking is done; the other is used for meals and contains the beds which are simply boxes, and five or six of these box beds are often packed together within the compass of a few square yards. The windows have no apertures; ventilation is supplied by the chimney and the door; the floor is of clay, and in this close, damp, dreary hovel are often housed a labourer, his wife, and six or eight children. Cottages.

25. The very wretched labourers' cottages in Cardiganshire appear to have originated in two causes:—1, in squatters building upon the wastes at a time when manorial rights were very little looked after, and any one possessed of a few pounds might, unmolested, erect a hovel for his residence. 2, in a long established custom of granting building leases for a long term of years, leaving the tenant to form his own plan and choose his own materials. The result is the existence of perhaps a greater number of cottages unfit for the habitation of human beings than is to be found within an equal area in any part of Great Britain. Most of these cottages are occupied by their owners until the expiration of the leases or they tumble down from age and decay. I was informed by Mr. Fryer, the agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Bart., one of the largest landed proprietors in Cardiganshire, that out of his 500 cottage tenants only 40 pay rack-rents. Cause of the inferior cottage accommodation in Cardiganshire.

26. A landed proprietor, the cottages on whose estates are thus held, is almost powerless for the purpose of improvement. He cannot turn out the squatter or his descendant, who, by long acquiescence, has acquired quasi proprietary rights, and when leases have been granted he must wait for their expiration before he can even think of rebuilding. Many other difficulties surround the question. Large landed estates are often heavily mortgaged, and little money can be found for the most necessary improvements, but with all these allowances I regret to state that I have no reason for believing that the majority of the landowners of Cardiganshire are duly alive to their moral responsibilites and true interests in providing improved accommodation for the class upon whose comfort and welfare so much of their own prosperity depends. Inability of landed proprietors to improve.

27. Proper cottage accommodation is, however, a want which the labouring classes are themselves beginning to recognize. The decencies of life are more thought of than they were, and although, from the general want of privies, the lane, the field, and even the churchyard, are still resorted to for the purposes of nature, it is occasionally with a feeling akin to shame, and a sentiment certainly not of respect for the owners of those hovels, whose parsimony or indifference have compelled them to resort to such practices. Mr. Loxdale, of Castle Hill, Llanilar, a gentleman who has taken Good cottage accommodation more appreciated by the labouring classes than formerly.

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P. much interest in the improvement of labourers' dwellings, informed me that a marked change for the better has taken place of late years in the Welsh people in regard to the observance of some of the proprieties of life. This gentleman has built a considerable number of cottages in the place of the hovels which were a disgrace to his neighbourhood, and he assured me that the desire for better accommodation is becoming general among the labouring classes. He has been enabled to build a considerable number of excellent cottages with three bedrooms above, and kitchen, pantry, &c. below, for 120*l.* each, for which an agricultural labourer in receipt of fair wages is willing to pay 5*l.* a year, and as a hopeful sign of progress, he stated that he had been often reminded by labouring men while engaged in carrying out his building plans not on any account to omit a privy for every cottage.

No gardens. 28. Few cottages in Cardiganshire have gardens. In villages the houses are generally built in rows with no frontage but the road, and without any ground behind. Where detached cottages have small gardens they are generally neglected. In the immediate neighbourhood of towns cottage gardens are not uncommon, and are comparatively well cultivated, and the wives of cottagers may be seen on a market day carrying their baskets of vegetables and fruit to the nearest town or hawking them about from house to house.

No allotments. 29. In Cardiganshire the allotment system is entirely unknown, as I did not meet with one instance of it in the course of my inquiries. I presume it is unsuited to the habits of the agricultural population.

I reserve such remarks as I have to make on the state of elementary education in this county until the sequel of my Report, where I think they will be more conveniently introduced with those relating to education in the other counties which I visited.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

30. This county, as I before observed, possesses two marked social divisions; one-half of it is almost exclusively Welsh in its character and the other English. I deemed it right to restrict my inquiries to the Welsh portion of the county, and I selected the union of Machynlleth as that which promised to afford the most useful information. I attended a meeting of the board of guardians at Machynlleth, and I had the opportunity of obtaining the opinions of some of the most considerable farmers of the district on the several questions raised by the Commission.

Women not employed in agriculture. 31. In one respect Montgomeryshire presents a marked contrast to the adjoining county of Cardiganshire. The employment of women in agriculture is very rare both in the Welsh and in the English portions of the county. There is, indeed, I was told, a general feeling of repugnance to the employment of women in field labour, except in hay time and harvest.

Gangs unknown. 32. Agricultural gangs are also altogether unknown. Children are very little employed for hire in husbandry until they leave home and enter farm service; this they do at ages varying from 9 to 13.

In my remarks on Cardiganshire I adverted to the average low rate of wages in that county as affording some excuse to parents for sending children so young as 10 to farm service; this excuse will scarcely apply to Montgomeryshire, where the general rate of wages is comparatively high.

Size of farms in the Machynlleth union 33. In the Machynlleth union, which consists of 11 parishes, with a population of 17,168, the farms range from 20*l.* to 200*l.* a year rent, from 50*l.* to 60*l.* a year being the average. The number of small farms in this union has been the means of introducing a class of farmers very industrious indeed, but generally wanting capital. Nevertheless, I found among landlords generally a predilection for these farms; they bring somewhat higher rents, and are regarded as providing a means of support for many honest men who would otherwise pass their lives as day labourers.

Wages in the Machynlleth union. 34. The wages of agricultural labourers in the Machynlleth union are high, being affected by the demand for labour at the quarries and mines. A good day agricultural labourer can earn from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and from 13*s.* to 14*s.* in winter. The majority of labourers, however, live fully up to their earnings, and I did not learn in answer to my inquiries that it was their general practice to save. First class male farm servants obtain from 15*l.* to 19*l.* a year with their food.

Small freeholders numerous. 35. There is a considerable number of small freeholders in this part of Montgomeryshire owning properties of from 20*l.* to 80*l.* a year, which they cultivate chiefly by the aid of their families, but the smaller class of freeholders generally seek occasional employment as day labourers, supplementing their small incomes by the wages thus earned.

Diet of farm servants. 36. The meat diet of farm servants consists, as in Cardiganshire, chiefly of salt beef and bacon, but a great improvement has taken place in the food of the labouring classes generally in Montgomeryshire within the last 25 years. Twenty years ago barley and oat bread were in common use in the farmhouses and amongst agricultural labourers; now wheaten bread, at least in those districts where wages are good, is only used. In poorer districts bread made in the proportion of two-thirds of barley to one of wheat is not unusual. Oatmeal porridge is common for breakfast and supper, and the amount of farinaceous food thus consumed probably serves to counteract the effect which a diet of salt meat would otherwise have upon the health.

State of cottages bad. 37. The cottages in this part of Montgomeryshire are badly drained, badly ventilated, and without privies. Those in the villages are the worst, the detached country cottages being in a slight degree better. When new cottages are built it is generally by speculators who form their plans without reference to the health, decency, or convenience of the future inmates.

Squatters on the waste. 38. The same practice to which I have adverted in my remarks on Cardiganshire of squatters building on the wastes has prevailed to a considerable extent in Montgomeryshire, as the numerous hovels which offend the eye in the wilder districts of the county abundantly attest. Their occupiers are generally obliged to pay a small rent.

Instances of landlords' care as to cottages. 39. Where cottages, as is still often the case, are built on lease, the landlord now generally insists on the adoption of a plan of his own, in which proper arrangements are made for comfort and decency. This is especially the case on the property of Earl Vane, and these, as well as those built at his own cost, leave nothing to be desired. I have pleasure also in recording the liberal spirit in which this great social want has been met by another of the great landed proprietors of the principality, namely, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., the cottages on whose estates in Montgomeryshire are in a very

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satisfactory condition, the greater number of them having four rooms. Cottage gardens are rare and not wanted, a labourer generally stipulating with his employer at his hiring for permission to plant potatoes on the land. Allotments in any other sense are unknown. P.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

Cattle and sheep farms prevail.

40. This mountainous county afforded very little scope for my inquiries. A very large portion of it is wholly devoted to the rearing and grazing of black cattle. Sheep farms occupy another large portion of it, and the whole is very sparsely peopled.

The land under tillage lies chiefly in the vicinity of the coast, as at Towyn, but the great majority of farmers do not grow a blade of corn, and many do not even cultivate a potato.

The Dolgelley union.

41. The district I selected as comprehending within a comparatively limited area specimens of the different kinds of farming prevailing in the county was the union of Dolgelly, consisting of 13 parishes, with a population of 12,482. A few of the grazing farms in this district are large for North Wales, the rent of the largest being about 350*l.*

Women employed in agriculture.

42. Merionethshire presents a contrast to Montgomeryshire in the common employment of women in agriculture, and in that respect it resembles Cardiganshire, with the difference that whereas in Cardiganshire women entering farm service are expressly hired as labourers in agriculture, in Merionethshire they are engaged as domestic servants, with the understanding that they are to assist in the outdoor work of the farm, although very few are exclusively so employed. Women are not extensively engaged as day labourers, but there are few of the arable farms in which some are not so employed; their wages average from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Boys hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age.

43. Boys are hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age, but the farms being generally small and pastoral a great many young boys are employed in looking after the sheep and tending cattle, these being the principal occupations on most of the high-lying farms. Farmers then employ their own children for these purposes from a very early age.

Early age at which girls enter farm service.

44. Girls generally enter farm service at 9 years of age, but they are seldom put to any outdoor work until they are 11.

I heard opinions freely expressed that females, particularly young girls, should not be employed in outdoor, heavy, and dirty work, and that they should never be employed after 7 p.m.

There can be no doubt that young girls are often overtaxed in the outdoor work of farms, and that the hours of work are, as a rule, too long for females who have not attained the strength of womanhood.

Mode of living of small farmers.

45. The following description of the mode of living of small farmers in Merionethshire 20 years ago is taken from the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society:—

"The rents in this county are high, particularly on small farms, where, what with rent and poor rates, I hardly know how they contrive to live, but live they do, but very hard. For dinner you will see a small farmer have half a salt herring, with potatoes and buttermilk (very poor food for a working man); his wife and family must content themselves with buttermilk and potatoes, or perhaps after the farmer has finished his part herring there will be a scramble amongst the youngsters for the bones to suck as a treat. They sometimes have a little skim-milk cheese with oaten bread; some, better off than others, bacon; yet the amount of poor and county rates these men pay per annum will amount to from 4*l.* to 5*l.* each; in fact, paupers live better than these men. The cloth they wear they weave from wool of their own growing, both men and women, the men a kind of frieze, and the women linseys."

Dietary of farmhouses.

46. The mode of living in this county may have a little improved since the above was written, but is very inferior to that of the adjoining county of Montgomery. The dietary of the farmhouses is on a lower scale, the bread being made of barley, or if wheaten bread is supplied it is of very inferior quality. The only meat consumed is salt meat, and less of that is consumed than even in Cardiganshire.

Wages in the Dolgelly union.

47. The average wages of an agricultural labourer in the union of Dolgelly average from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. His general diet is for breakfast broth or milk and bread and cheese, for dinner salt beef or bacon and potatoes, for tea a bowl of milk and bread and cheese, and for supper porridge or flummery.

Bad state of cottages in Merionethshire.

48. The remarks which I have made on the deplorable want of proper cottages in Cardiganshire apply with full force to the county of Merioneth, or at least to that portion of it which I selected as the subject of my inquiries, and I have reason to believe, from the answers to the circular of questions which I distributed in other portions of the county, that the same deficiencies exist throughout. The farmhouses are also in a very poor and miserable condition, often with only two rooms; and the sleeping apartments generally are not properly separated from each other, with what results to morality may be inferred.

EDUCATION.

49. I have reserved such remarks as I have to make respecting the state of elementary education in these counties until now, for more conveniently treating the subject as a whole.

Desire for education general.

50. All the clergy, schoolmasters, and farmers with whom I communicated were unanimously of opinion that a very general desire exists on the part of the labouring classes to give their children the advantages of education. Doubtless many instances are to be found in these counties, as elsewhere, of parents, uneducated themselves, neglecting to educate their children; but where poverty or the want of schools does not prove an obstacle the means of education, such as they are, are taken advantage of.

Size of parishes an impediment to schools.

51. Many parishes, however, are so large and so thinly populated as absolutely to preclude the establishment of a school. In others, where schools have been established, they are often very indifferent ones, and most inconveniently situated for regular attendance, parts of the parish being four and even six miles from the school. In Bala, for example, a parish 13 miles long and 8 wide, all the schools, with the exception of one, a small rural school, which is closed in summer, are situated in the town at one extremity of the parish. As a proof of the great deficiency which exists in the means of education throughout the counties of Cardigan, Montgomery, and Merioneth, I find it stated by the Rev. J. B. Binns, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, in his evidence before the Select Committee on Education

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P. in 1866, that there were in his district, which includes the above counties, 650 parishes or townships, out of which there were at the time he wrote 350, or more than one-half, without any day school whatever.*

Sunday schools to some extent do the work of elementary schools.

52. This deficiency of day schools is, however, in some degree compensated for by Sunday schools. The children of the labouring classes are indeed to a great extent trained in the Sunday schools, which they attend in common with adults.

To the very general attendance of the labouring classes in these schools is attributable the high percentage of the population which is able to read their own language, for it was stated to me by one of the guardians of the poor for the union of Machynlleth that of the adult male population of his parish 19 in 20 are able to read their native language, and about 10 in 20 to write it.

Educational deficiencies.

53. Generally speaking the means of education in the three counties which I visited are most insufficient. I found it impossible to go into minute statistical details on this question, but I found in most of the districts a decided want of good schools. The want of trained teachers has long been one of the impediments to the progress of education, and if twenty a year more than the present supply were procurable from the training colleges they would, it is said, be not more than the necessities of the Principality require.

Welsh ignored in the Government schools.

54. The Welsh language is altogether ignored in schools subject to Government inspection, and receiving a Government grant. Practically this system, except where the schools are of a superior kind, has not had the effect it was designed to have, namely, in imparting to the children such a knowledge of the English language as to supersede their own. Generally they leave school too young to have acquired sufficient English even for colloquial purposes, for on their return to their homes in the evenings they hear nothing spoken but Welsh, and they naturally speak nothing else themselves. I found scarcely an instance in the many farmhouses which I visited of the young farm servants, male or female, being able to speak or understand English, if they had left school before 13.

Farmers favourable to education.

55. I may take this opportunity of stating that I found the farmers as a class universally in favour of education, and should any limit be placed on the age at which young boys and girls may enter farm service, or any previous educational qualification be required, I am convinced that such a plan would meet with their ready approval, and that they would afford it their hearty co-operation.

I heard hopes frequently expressed by farmers that as a living language Welsh would soon become extinct. They feel its inconveniences daily. It interferes with their business transactions with their English neighbours, and it keeps the country, as they say, a century behind England in civilization.

Why the English language does not make progress among the rural population.

56. One cause why the English language does not make speedier progress is the early age at which children generally leave school for farm service. It is simply impossible for a child who hears English spoken only at school, and who is often unable to attach any meaning to the sounds which he hears, and whose school lessons in English are learned merely by rote, to have acquired any practical use of such a language at the age of 12 or 13.

Poverty the chief cause of neglect of education.

57. There is, as I have before observed, a general desire for education, but in parts of Cardiganshire and Merionethshire the low rate of wages tells heavily against the parent when he has several children of an age to send to school. With wages at 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, it cannot be supposed that a parent with a family can willingly make the sacrifice of even a penny a week for each child's schooling. In the majority of cases where there is default on the part of the parent poverty is the true cause, and an improvement of his condition as a labourer the appropriate remedy.

The homes of the agricultural classes, however, are often at a great distance from any school, and a parent will seldom think it worth the sacrifice to send a child three or four miles daily if he doubts the capacity of the master or the value of the instruction imparted.

Neglected education of the children of small farmers.

58. The children of the smaller class of farmers receive less education than those of day labourers. The children of the latter are not habitually employed until they enter service, and a considerable period of the year is therefore available for school attendance, but the children of small farmers are utilized at a very early age, and pass the greater portion of the year either in herding, bird keeping, or some other occupation connected with the farm.

The Pen-y-parke School.

59. The Pen-y-parke School, near Aberystwith, is an instance of the effect of a really good school in attracting to it not only the children of the parish in which it is situated, but of other parishes. This school has 350 scholars on its books. It is a Church school in connexion with the National Society, but is conducted on liberal principles, the church catechism being taught only to those children whose parents do not object to it. The master, Mr. G. H. Thomas, owes much of his success to the system of bilingual teaching which he has adopted. Having taught himself Welsh he was better able to teach his scholars English. They acquire consequently ideas as well as sounds, and can read English intelligently when the master is able to explain its meaning in their own language. The repute which this school has acquired has induced many parents who can afford it to send their children to board in the village for the sake of the superior education which they are thus enabled to obtain.

Many large parishes without any school.

60. Where schools are most wanted, as in large parishes with a widely dispersed population, there is the greatest difficulty in establishing them. Either it is impossible to procure a site, or the subscriptions are so small that it is impossible to support it properly, or it is often so placed as to be practically useless to one-half the parish.

"In many parishes of Cardiganshire," says Mr. H. C. Fryer, the agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Baronet, "we have no school, and there is no person of sufficient weight to take the initiative in providing one; in such cases it appears to me to be the duty of Government to step in. There is a class of children, moreover, which can be reached only by a compulsory and free system of education. The children of the very poor in our remote rural parishes must be educated gratuitously or they will not be educated at all."

61. It is scarcely within my province to comment upon the difficulties with which the progress of elementary education is beset by the disturbing element of religion in these counties, but I cannot refrain from quoting the following admirable remarks on the subject by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for the Principality:—

"It is most desirable," writes the Reverend S. Pryce, "that proper Government schools should be established in some of the most central of the neglected parishes, but the population is generally so small

* Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Education, 1865, p. 212.

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and scattered that this could only be done successfully by those who are interested in the education of the neighbourhood, whatever their religious views and creed may be, joining to support one common school. In some places, such as Llangwyryfon and Llanddewifrefi, Cardiganshire, religious rivalry prevented this being done, no sooner did one party determine upon having a school, than the other party felt bound to start an opposition one; and thus, while many parishes in my district are without a school of any description, there are in these villages too many schools. The consequence naturally is, that such schools are small and inferior. The two schools, the National and the British, work against each other, and not against ignorance and indifference. In towns and parishes where there is a fair population, this opposition and rivalry work beneficially, for there is always plenty of raw material to act upon; but in villages and parishes where the number of children who can possibly attend school within a radius of three miles does not exceed 60 or 80, an increase in one school merely means a decrease in the other, one can only flourish at the expense of the other; the object in such places is not to get half a dozen poor children from the streets to attend some school, but to entice half a dozen children from the National to the British school, and *vice versâ*. I need not point out what a bad effect all this has upon the discipline and instruction in both schools." * P.

62. The feeling between the dissenting community and churchmen in regard to education has, however, been gradually improving, and many instances might be cited of parishes in which the most harmonious co-operation has been established between them; at the same time I would not omit to do justice to the independent exertions of dissenters, and I think that the fact of 30 British schools, some of high merit, having been established in the county of Cardigan alone, proves that the dissenting community is fully alive to the importance of providing education for the children of the rural population in accordance with its own opinions. Improved feeling between dissenters and churchmen.

63. The conclusions I arrived at as the result of my inquiries in these counties, as regards the immediate objects of the Commission, is that in reference to the employment of women in agriculture no legislation is necessary. It is undoubtedly on the decline in Cardiganshire, and will probably in the course of another half century altogether cease. The interests and feeling of the women themselves and the gradual assimilation of the customs of Wales to those of England will in time effect that change which might be attempted by legislation in vain. General result of the inquiry.

64. The very early age at which girls enter farm service not only deprives them of the proper opportunities for education, but exposes them to the danger of having their strength overtaxed by outdoor work.

Without imposing any positive limit as to age at which girls may be allowed to engage themselves as farm servants, it seems to me that the desirable object of deferring the period of service might be attained by requiring a certificate of education up to a certain point as a condition of hiring; farm service being generally the only form in which the labour of girls is required, unless working for their parents.

The requirement of an educational qualification preparatory to hiring seems to be the most practicable mode of prolonging the period of school attendance for boys and preventing the premature taxing of their undeveloped strength in the rough work of a farm. It is natural that poor people should wish to be relieved as early as possible from the burden of supporting their children, but the interests of the children are entitled to as much consideration as those of the parents. It would be an important step in education too if some adequate inducement could be held out to boys to continue their school attendance for only 12 hours in the week until they attained the age of 14, the interval between 12 and 14 being the most important period of a boy's life, not only for benefiting by instruction but for receiving permanent impressions for good.

65. This inquiry was carried on in one respect under circumstances of some disadvantage. The Welsh language being alone spoken over a considerable portion of the districts which I visited, free communication with the agricultural classes was impossible, and I was unable consequently to personally ascertain the general state of education among the peasantry, nor could I put to any satisfactory test the amount of school instruction which young boys had received who has just entered farm service. I visited numerous farms in which neither the occupier nor any of his servants could speak or understand a word of English. The evidence accompanying this Report is, therefore, necessarily less copious than but for the above reasons it would otherwise have been, for I was obliged to confine my inquiries chiefly to the clergy, magistracy, and professional persons, and to such farmers and labourers as I found could speak English. The answers which I received to the numerous circulars distributed were, moreover, remarkably few. Many of the occupiers to whom they were addressed were, perhaps, incapable of comprehending their meaning, or unwilling to attempt a reply. Out of 50 circulars which I transmitted to the incumbents of parishes in the three counties of Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, the returns amounted only to eight.

66. In concluding this Report, I beg to express my obligations to the clergy, magistrates, clerks of Boards of Guardians, yeomanry, and tenant farmers with whom I had the pleasure of conversing, for their readiness to afford me all the information in their power. From the land stewards of many of the chief proprietors in the three counties I also received the most valuable assistance, and I am happy to bear my testimony to their enlightened and liberal views on the subjects on which I felt it would be of advantage to invite their opinions.†

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. HENRY TREMENHEERE,
Assistant Commissioner.

November 20, 1869.

* General report for the year 1868 by Her Majesty's Inspector, the Reverend S. Pryce, M.A., on the Church of England Schools inspected by him in Mid-Wales.

† Of these gentlemen I would beg to specially name Mr. H. C. Fryer, agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Baronet; Mr. W. Pugh, agent of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.; and Mr. R. Gellart, agent of Earl Vane.

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REPORT by Mr. R. F. BOYLE on MONMOUTHSHIRE and RADNORSHIRE.

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TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

Q. GENTLEMEN,

1. I BEG to lay before you the evidence I collected, and the conclusions I have drawn therefrom, in the counties of Monmouth and Radnor during the months of October and November in the year past (1869); and in doing so shall combine my accounts into one Report, the circumstances of the two counties being in many respects so similar that I shall easily be able so to do.

Distribution of circulars.

In accordance with usual custom I distributed a considerable number of the circulars with which you were good enough to provide me. In the county of Monmouth I distributed 56, of which nine were the longer circulars: of the shorter, 47 in number, I forwarded 18 to the various meetings of the Board of Guardians I purposed attending, and did not expect to receive answers, having only made use of them to show the gentlemen present the objects of the Commission. Of the remaining 29, I received 22 answered more or less fully. In the county of Radnor I distributed five of the larger circulars, of which I received three answered, all by clergymen; and 12 of the smaller, of which I received seven answered. Some gentlemen have been contented with little more than monosyllabic replies; others, and to them I would wish to express my gratitude, have bestowed considerable time and trouble on theirs.

English and Welsh farms compared.

2. In both these counties there are two distinct kinds of farming, prevailing respectively on the east and western sides, which we may distinguish as the Welsh and English, the principal characteristics of the former being, as far as concerns our purpose, that the labourers live in the farmers' houses, of the latter that they live in cottages on the farm. Both these counties being essentially of the nature of border counties the transition from one to the other is very fully marked:—In Radnorshire, owing to its more broken surface and the difficulty of its communications, it is possible almost to draw a border line. In Monmouthshire, which consists of merely undulating, not mountainous, country, and where communications are therefore easier, it is harder to trace. About Chepstow, which is quite an English district, the characteristics of English farms exist, whereas in the far west the Welsh system is as unmixed as in any part of Radnorshire.

Boundary of England and Wales.

3. Mr. Price, of Maesgwyn, Chairman of the Board of Guardians at Builth, told me that he considered the boundary of Radnorshire and of Herefordshire to be quite arbitrary, that the real natural boundary was a line drawn across the summits of the Begws and Clyro Hills, and Radnor Forest out to Bailey Hill, where a range can be traced varying from 1,500 to over 2,000 feet high, and broken only naturally by the valley of the Lug, but crossed below by the high road that leads over a high part of Radnor Forest through Penybont to Rhayadr. On the east side of the range the farming is very similar to that of Herefordshire. To the west we have almost entirely stock farms, with the Welsh peculiarity of the labourers, men, women, and boys, living in the farmhouse. Where the Valley of the Lug, however, runs up to Bleddfa and Llangunllo an arm of England runs up between the Welsh mountains.

4. In Monmouthshire it is very difficult to draw any certain line; but certainly the Wye is too far east to be considered the boundary of England and Wales, and the Rumney too far west. The only part that can be considered purely English is the part of Chepstow union in Monmouthshire, and the only part purely Welsh, the hill country and the valley of Cwmyoy, which runs up between Hereford-

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shire and Breconshire, and is shut in by mountains on both sides. Along the whole of the rest of the county, principally the basin of the Usk and its tributaries, the characteristics of a Welsh farm and an English farm are intermixed, some few of the labourers living in cottages, others with the farmers, according to various circumstances, such as the number of cottages on the farm, and the proportion of arable land to pasture. Q.

5. The proportion of arable land to pasture is everywhere an important element in determining the proportion of labourers living in the house, stock requiring constant supervision, and men at hand at all hours of the day and night, while ordinary farming only requires the usual labour hours of 6 to 6, or till dark in winter, and can be managed as well by men living in cottages as by farm servants. In the district along the Severn, where there is a belt of rich grazing land, nearly every labourer lives in the farmhouse; very few are employed; one or two cowmen and a shepherd or two, according to the size of the farm; and if there is a little corn land, extra hands are hired in summer. The eastern part of this belt, however, can hardly be called a Welsh district.

6. In English counties the system prevails of men employed in stock farms living in the farmhouses. It might seem at first that it is only because the Welsh farms are almost entirely stock farms that the labourers live in the houses with their employers, but this is not the only reason. The line of demarcation between the farmer and his labourer does not exist in Wales as in England. The farm servant on a Welsh farm lives and eats with his master and mistress, and is treated in every respect on a footing of equality; he puts by money, if thrifty, and ultimately starts as a farmer on his own account. The farmer's son works as an ordinary labourer on his father's farm, and instead of their being an expense to him each saves him a labourer's hire.

Welsh language disappearing.

7. In both these counties the Welsh language is rapidly disappearing. Even the poorest parents seem to wish their children to know English in preference to the old tongue, and there are instances of children who can speak hardly a word of Welsh, being sprung from parents equally ignorant of English. In Monmouthshire, though you will hear occasional Welsh among the people in the cottages, English, being now taught in every school, has become the language of the county, and up in the hills, where it survived much later than in the lower grounds, the introduction of mines is gradually driving away the old language. Radnorshire was never a very Welsh-speaking county. The Rev. J. Evans (R. 2) informed me that he can recollect before the new bridges were made that there was hardly any communication across the Wye with Breconshire; that it was as great a barrier as a range of mountains, and that whereas everyone in Breconshire was speaking Welsh, everyone in Radnorshire was speaking English. The Rev. W. Williams (R. 20), whose parish occupies all the western corner of this county, a mountain tract of over 30,000 acres, considers that the boundary of the English and Welsh tongues is now half-way across his parish, at the glen of Nant-Gwyllt.

District visited in Monmouthshire.

8. In the county of Monmouth I visited the parts of the Chepstow and Monmouth unions, some few parishes of the Newport union, the non-mining part of the Pontypool union, and the parish of Cwmyoy, and one or two others in the Abergavenny union. An agricultural labourer, if able-bodied, can in this district earn as high wages as a miner. But it is, for the most part, a district of small farmers; and their labourers are housed and fed and treated like one of the family, so that they can get one of them to work for much less money than a wealthier farmer could. The mining district occupies all the west of the county, except a strip along the sea-board, and includes, perhaps, one-third of its extent, and three-fourths of the population (M. 64, 76, 90). The wages of men and boys there are so high that women are not tempted to do agricultural work.

District visited in Radnorshire.

9. In Radnorshire I only visited the union of Rhayadr, a purely Welsh district, and the part of Kington union in Radnorshire, which includes the borough of Radnor, the most prosperous part of the county, a dip of excellent land, surrounded on all sides by hills, and with the advantage of being the only district in the two counties where many of the proprietors reside. But these two districts gave ample opportunities of judging the different characteristics of Welsh and English farming as affecting the objects of our enquiry.

(1.) Employment of Women and Children on English Farms.

English and Welsh farming compared as concerns the employment of women and children in agriculture.

10. On the circumstances of the English districts of Monmouthshire I do not propose to enlarge. They are very similar as regards the employment of women and children to those of English counties described in the Report lately presented. I may add, however, that in most respects I should consider the people in the two unions of Chepstow and Monmouth as well off, compared with those of many other counties in England. The wages in money are not high, but perquisites are given which make it up to a shilling or two more; the advantages naturally varying with the terms on which the farmer and his labourers stand. At Newchurch the least Mr. Woodruffe, a large employer of labour, gives is 10*s.* and two quarts of cider; three of his men have 10*s.* a week, and a cottage beside, but he has only cottages to give three of them (48 M). At one time he gave corn, but that was when it had risen to 8*s.* or 9*s.*; and this he continued to do until the market price had fallen below the 6*s.*

Wages in Chepstow and Monmouth union.

Reasons for diminution of women's labour.

11. Throughout this district I found the usual remark, that women will not work out to the extent to which they used formerly. The usual cause assigned was the rise in the rate of wages, but this I had occasion to remark has not been very marked of late years, considering what might have been expected in a tract of land lying midway between the greatest coal fields in Wales and those of the forest of Dean (M. 54, M. 3). The clerk to the Newport Board of Guardians stated that wages in his district averaged from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week, all counted (M. 54). But in the neighbourhood of Monmouth they were said to be only 9*s.* with perquisites. If we are, therefore, to accept it as granted that the reason for women not going out so much to work is that they are better off than they were, we must seek for the reason in the fact of the necessaries of life being cheaper. As a rule, all the baking is done at home, little meat is eaten from year's end to year's end, except the flesh of one pig, which nearly every cottager keeps.

A labourers' food.

Liberality of Poor Law relief.

12. But a circumstance which struck me as accounting in some measure for women caring less to go out to work was that suggested by Mr. Lyne, agent to Mr. Herbert of Llanarth (M. 55),—the facility of getting Poor Law relief. No woman ever works out a whole week, say at the most three or four days;

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Q. allowing for wet days, washing days, market days, &c., and for that they would only earn their 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*, whereas they can get 2*s.* from the union equally well without wear and tear of clothes. It was formerly the custom for a widow if able-bodied to go out and work for her family. As there are incessant complaints from the guardians of the amount of the poor rates, it would clearly be better that more should be given in wages and less in charity.

Female labour in Kington union. 13. The same remarks will apply to the English portion of Radnorshire. There it was the subject of general complaint among the farmers that no women will work out. In this district women's labour has almost entirely gone out now. Perhaps the low remuneration given may account for it in some measure. With low wages scarcely enough can be made to cover the wear and tear of clothes, the damage done by children left alone at home, and other incidents to the mother's absence.

Female labour in East Monmouthshire. 14. As a rule, on the east side of Monmouthshire, two or three women are employed on most of the farms. But it is not to be supposed for that reason that they turn out every day of the year; probably scarcely one works out even every fine day; there are certain busy times when they are wanted; at other times they stay at home. Most of those who work are labourers' wives. The principal woman's work is topping and tailing turnips and swedes. At Usk, which is a large agricultural village or small town (M. 80), the English and Welsh women do not work out much now; nearly all the woman's work has been taken by the Irishwomen, who came over in the time of the famine. At this town and at Caerleon there are large colonies of Irish; they are mostly very poor, not such skilled labourers as the natives, and consequently the women have to work to make out the purse. The pulling swedes sometimes falls upon the women too; this is very hard work (M. 27) involving continual stooping; they weed corn occasionally, as many as eight doing it in a row (M. 28), but this is unusual in this county; little weeding is done, there being a great deal of pasture more or less good on the high grounds. Women are employed much to cut thistles, and all over the part where there are orchards a good deal of apple picking is done by them, as also potato setting and planting, partly for farmers and partly for themselves in their own gardens.

Proportion of women working in fields to non-workers. 15. As to the proportion that the women who work out bear in number to those who stay at home, this is dependent on local circumstances, principally the poverty of the district; often on the mere custom of the place; often on the fact of some particular farmer being a large employer of female labour. The high parishes between Monmouth, Raglan, and Chepstow are perhaps those in which women do most out-door work; in St. Arvan's nearly all the women, except those who make dresses, are glad to get out-door work (M. 54). In Newchurch, a large parish on the hills, three parts out of four work out more or less (M. 48); further north at Trelleck, one of the poorest parishes in the district, perhaps a dozen women come out (M. 32) to make hay and reap, and Mr. Hewlett mentions one or two as coming out for him in the swede pulling. Mrs. Hoskins, a labourer's wife in Mitchell Troy, mentioned that there are few who work out in her parish, speaking rather contemptuously of those who do not (M. 27). The further west we go we find less work done by women, the arable land diminishing and the farms being smaller generally, but it is very difficult to lay down a general rule, as far west as Llanarth (M. 11). Where there are many Irish we find farmers taking their wives and children out to dig potatoes, and as an instance of how local the differences are, in the parish of Llanvihangel Crugcorney, scarcely a woman is employed at all, whilst in a neighbouring (Herefordshire) parish only separated by the river Monnow nearly every woman works (91 M).

Women's wages. 16. The wages of women generally are from 10*d.* to 1*s.*, besides a little cider in some cases. At Trelleck (M. 32) where it is perhaps lowest, a woman gets 9*d.* or 10*d.* and some drink. At Mitchell Troy 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day and drink (M. 27); a good deal of work is done by piecework, and at turnip topping and tailing they will get near Chepstow (M. 48) 6*s.* an acre.

Employment of girls. 17. Few young women are employed in agriculture now; most of them go into service as soon as able to carry a child, some will go as young as 10 or 12; those who go very young, perhaps for their food; those a little older for a few pounds; the greater part go into farmhouses, but some go away to the towns; as a rule, they prefer the latter, but the farm service has its advantage in many ways, the food is better (M. 54), and they are treated more on a footing of equality by their employers. Farm service, however, does not merely include in-door work; many farm servants do as much work out of the house as in, and this we find to be more the case the further we come into Wales, where fewer people are kept in regular employment. As to young women working in the same manner as married women, the cases are exceptional, and becoming more so. I seldom heard of more than one or two in a parish, and in their cases there was usually some good reason that prevented their going into service.

Is female labour demoralizing? 18. It seems by general consent to be allowed that field labour does not injure the health. No woman to whom I spoke on the subject complained of ill effects, and farmers spoke of it as beneficial. As a rule, however, except in the case of some few old women who have done it all their life, those who work in the fields speak of it as a hard necessity. Mrs. Cook (M. 41) is "glad to do it sometimes, because "she has so many children, and wants some clothes to put on them." Another woman at Magor, "is "very glad to do it, as she must, would like not to if she could afford it" (M. 59). Mrs. Hoskins' "husband has very bad health, can earn when in work 12*s.* a week, sometimes only earns 2*s.*; last week "had to earn nearly all the money myself; am quite ready and willing to turn my hand to any work, out-"door or in-door. Pulling swedes is very hard work, but am glad to be able to do something." Opinions generally were expressed in favour of women's labour; that it does not demoralise the women themselves, and that their homes are quite as tidy as those of the women who are at home all day. Certainly, speaking from my own experience, it was impossible to judge from the appearance of a cottage whether the mistress works out or not. If she is a sufficiently energetic woman to go out and work, she will probably have sufficient energy to repair some amount of the harm done by her children in her absence, when she returns home; and as in no case does a woman work out every day of the week, her days at home will be better employed than those of a woman who is always at home. What has always seemed to me one of the worst results of female labour is, that when the mother goes out an elder child is kept at home to take care of the baby. Mrs. Burris at Magor, leaves her second boy in charge; he could not be much above 8 years old, and the children have to do as well as they can while she is out (M. 41). The woman to whom I have before alluded at Mitchell Troy (M. 27), has only very young children. "When I go out," she says, "I am obliged to leave the children to take care of

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" themselves; one is only a few months old, and none is old enough to take any real care of the " others. I lock them into the kitchen, and they play about; I must leave a bit of fire because of the " supper, but it is dangerous, and I am always afraid they may come to some harm; still, we are so poor, " I must go out to work." Q.

19. There is, of course, generally a girl old enough to take care of her little brothers and sisters, while her mother is out. Schoolmasters complain much of this, and it is much to be deplored; still, it is a question, whether being kept at home for such a purpose is not to some extent a training for domestic duties, such as they never get at school, where such education extends only to needlework.

Employers of female labour, Mr. Woodruffe, Newchurch.

20. On these questions the opinions of gentlemen, who are themselves great employers of female labour, are of much value. Mr. Woodruffe, of Newchurch, " employs in harvest more women than " anyone near;" sometimes he has 20 out. The system on which he goes is to give them as wages the leasing of the field afterwards, and they are all very happy to come out. It is only for harvest, however, that he employs strange women, in everything else he gives the preference to his labourer's wives, and they are always ready to come out when there is extra work to be done, unless there is a child coming or just come. In like manner also " the preference is given " on Colonel Clifford's farm to labourer's wives, and his steward, Mr. Roper (M. 11), thinks " women who come out are better and more " healthy looking than those who stay at home." Mr. Thomas, who farms largely at Bleddfa (R. 36), " lets out the swede pulling to women, who come to work with their children. They do it by measure, " 1¼*d.* a row, 100 yards long. They are not at it regular—do not come very early in the morning. " One workman's wife with two boys,—lumps of boys, who ought to be in service,—got 5*l.* for pulling " turnips about a month. All the labourers' wives, who have their hands free, are glad to come out." Mr. G. A. Haig (R. 33), who has a large extent of land in hand upon the Radnorshire hills at Llanbadarn Fynydd, and is introducing tillage in lieu of the usual pasture, writes, "girls are very seldom " employed until they are 16 or 17. At that age they are employed in turnip weeding and planting, " and gathering potatoes, and binding corn in harvest. Women, both married and single, are employed " in the same occupations; they get 1*s.* a day. I employ a great many, sometimes 30 women and " children. The employment is not constant; it is intermittent, and depends on weather. On a fine " day a great many will turn out, on a wet day, very few, or none at all. I think it would be a great " hardship to restrict labour on land; it would only injure the labouring classes. The occupation is " healthy and liked by those engaged in it. I can get plenty of women for field work at 1*s.* a day; " but the same women object to work in my laundry at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, showing plainly that they consider " the occupation a pleasant one."

Mr. Thomas, Bleddfa.

G. A. Haig, Esq., Llanbadarn, Fynydd.

Employment of children in agriculture.

21. The employment of labourers' children in agriculture is by no means excessive in any part of these counties. As a rule, very few boys do work of any sort for farmers before the ages of 10 or 12 years; about that age the boys will get employment in a farmhouse, usually living there. Each farmer has a boy or two in his farm. If a good boy, and he and the farmer get on, he will probably grow up in the farm, and thus in many farms there will be no small boy at all; but when a new boy is wanted, a younger one is taken, generally a child of one of the labourers. The work done by such a boy is light, generally about the farm-yard, such as minding sheep or pigs, and horses. The old system of taking a little boy to lead the horse while ploughing has almost entirely gone out; pair-horse ploughing, has almost entirely superseded the old tandem ploughing, and the ploughman himself can drive. The farmer himself naturally prefers the new system, as saving the 6*d.* formerly given to the boy. Almost all boys, when first regularly employed, seem to be taken into the farmhouse under the above system; it is an offshoot of the Welsh ystem, as we shall see presently. But boys are sometimes taken from school at an earlier age to scare birds, which always seems to be the first work for which they are considered adapted. It is carried on much on the same system as in most counties in England, but owing to the great extent of pasture in Monmouth and Radnorshire, is confined to some districts, and prevails little in others. They are generally found necessary in the neighbourhood of rookeries,—the only bird that the farmers seem much to dread. The ages too at which they go are the same as I have seen before, depending chiefly on local circumstances, of which the principal is the poverty of the district, and in a minor degree, the personal influence of squire or clergyman, and the quality of the school. The parent is chiefly responsible for the fact of a child going out very young; the farmer naturally never inquires his age; if only he seems a sturdy boy, he knows that one boy at 8 is as good as another at 10. Of course, if the parents be poor, it is a great object to make the child support himself as early as possible. Mr. Smedley, at St. Arvans, told me that little boys run after him and ask him for employment. In Shire Newton, which is a poor parish (M. 45), boys go as young as 8 to keep crows; in the adjoining parish of Newchurch as early as 7 (M. 47). The Rev. C. R. Hall, of the parish of Shire Newton, who filled up a circular for me, informed me that the boys, who go away to keep crows, do not come back to school much after; "they get apple picking, potato setting and picking, and when they get a little older, " holding horses;" but I must say that his experience was rather exceptional. In most parishes, I was told that nearly every child, where there is a school handy, comes back for some short time at least during the winter. The schoolmaster at Llantillio Crossenny, for instance, informed me that the children who are taken away for the hay and corn harvests, sometimes come back for a short time between the harvests. Holidays are given in August for the harvest, and after that comes the potato picking and apple picking, which keeps them out pretty well till November. After that they come with tolerable regularity to school till the mowing begins.

Bird-keeping.

Apple picking, potato setting and picking.

22. The work besides harvest work that detains them at other times, is such as the smallest child can be of assistance in,—apple picking, and potato setting and picking. In such work they will often be at work for their parents, or in the garden of a friend of the parent, who will afterwards requite the assistance. A good deal is done for farmers too, and this work they will do chiefly with their parents, so that except bird-keeping the child seldom works alone till settled in a farm.

Employment of little girls.

23. Little girls will also assist (M. 17, 18,) their parents in the same work, though not to the same extent as boys, but it is very light work and unobjectionable, except, perhaps, on educational grounds, to which the same remarks would apply as in the case of boys. I did not come across an instance of a girl keeping birds; of course such apple picking and potato picking as is done by girls, would only be up to the age of 12 or 13, when they go into service. The question of out-door work, as done by farm servants, will come under the head of Welsh farming.

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Q. 24. With one more remark I shall conclude this portion of my Report; it is one affecting the morality of these counties. Although there is generally something against the character of a girl who works out in the fields, it is not in consequence of such work that she has lost her character; she is usually a girl who has come to misfortune in farm service. A great deal of harm of this kind arises from the free intercourse between the servants, male and female.

(2.)—Employment of Women and Children on Welsh Farms.

Welsh farms in Radnorshire and Monmouthshire.

25. In considering the peculiarities of Welsh farming, as affecting the employment of women and children, I shall draw my remarks chiefly from the Rhayadr union in Radnorshire, and the Pontypool union and parish of Cwmyoy in Monmouthshire, where we find a totally different state of things from what we meet in the English districts.

Mr. Edwards, of Maesygellig.

26. The case of Mr. Edwards, of Maesygellig, Nantmel, in the centre of the Rhayadr union, is a fair specimen of a Welsh farm. He farms in all about 140 acres, of which only 23 are ploughed, and the rest pasture; of the pasture, about 90 acres are hill side, for sheep, now enclosed, but formerly common, the rest being of a better description (R. 15). Mr. Edwards milks nine cows, but it is not on the dairy that the farmers depend, but on grazing; they grow little more corn and roots than is necessary for farm consumption, and depend for the rents and profits on the cattle and sheep, sheep being the more numerous up in the hills, a larger proportion of cattle in the valley farms. In the hills the proportion of cattle to 200 sheep would be about 25 to 30; in the lower grounds, 50 or 60 cattle to the same number of sheep (R. 33a.). Mr. Edwards can work his farm with two men and a young fellow of about 18, all of whom live in the house, as generally happens, unless with gentleman farmers. In his case all three of his workmen are his own sons. A large farmer in the valley of the Lug (R. 36) told me that he has six sons working on his farm; they work with the farm-labourers, just like one of them. The whole permanent establishment at Mr. Edwards', therefore, consists of his three sons and one farm servant,—a female, who does the milking. When harvest time comes it becomes necessary to hire a man; and the wheat is let out to a stranger to cut at 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* and food. As a rule, so little corn is grown on these farms that one extra hand, or, as often happens, the assistance of some neighbour, is sufficient to get it all in. In the valley of the Usk, however, in Monmouthshire, where the Welsh system of living in the house still prevails, there is more arable land, and a larger proportion of extra hands becomes necessary.

Pontypool union. Mr. Jenkins, Glascoed.

27. Mr. Jenkins, of Glascoed (M. 84), who farms about 180 acres, has only three men in regular employ—his shepherd, who occupies the only cottage on his farm, and his waggoner and a boy of 14, who live in the house. He does everything else by job work. In harvest he would have a good many out; had three or four hands employed extra for a month this last summer, but now (October) does not require so many. His farm would be a fair specimen of the farms in the valley of the Usk. Some slight modifications of these circumstances exist in various localities, dependent on where there is a larger proportion of arable land, and where there are a few more cottages on the farms than the scanty supply usually found in Monmouthshire. It was often given as a reason for having men (R. 13) living in the house that there are not sufficient cottages for them to live in; but, in some instances, farmers have told me that they prefer to have men living in the house (M. 68; R. 40). The farm servants hired thus are hired annually at the hiring fairs, which still go on in these two counties; in Monmouthshire, at Monmouth and Abergavenny; in Radnorshire, at Rhayadr and Penybont. Many of the servants, even who have no idea of changing their places, insist on having their holiday at the fair, and then come back to their old place. Few, however, will stay at one place more than three or four years (R. 20); the young men and women like change. Everything is upset about the time of the fair (May); you can get no one to do anything; all the lettings take place from the day of the fair. Mr. Wyatt, the Duke of Beaufort's agent, speaks of these mop fairs, as they are locally termed, as one of the greatest evils of the county. "As many as 500 young men and women come to the great "mop fair at Monmouth, which takes place in May. They hire themselves out for the year, and most "of them come back again at the end of the year to the next fair. They are generally worse "characters than the people who keep steadily to one place; they never seem to get attached to one "locality. They do a deal of harm in the town; each public-house has its fiddler, and a dance "generally takes place; they are almost all unmarried." No inquiry seems to be made into character on these occasions; it is a question only of who is a good workman or workwoman, and the demoralization can easily be imagined consequent on young women waiting in the market-place to be hired. I regretted much that the time of year of my tour in Wales prevented my being present at a "mop "fair," so that I cannot speak of it from my own experience.

Hiring fairs.

Farm servants.

28. In the wilder districts, however, there is a more clannish feeling, and a servant once hired is more willing to stay in his place, and grow up in it. In the Welsh farms the servants are as well off, often more so, than their masters. Many of them will get 16*l.* or 17*l.* a year (R. 20), and as they have no expenses, except clothes, a saving man can put by nearly the whole of it. In a farm at Cwmdauddwr there was a farm servant, a man 35 years of age, worth 200*l.* When a labourer marries he has to leave the farm very often; for many of these farms are quite unprovided with cottages. In many cases, however, when a young man has been some time in service, and put by a little money, and a servant girl the same, they will marry, and set up a farm on their own account with a capital of perhaps 80*l.* to 100*l.* But this system is going out very much now; the farms are being consolidated into larger holdings, which require more capital, and cottages are being built, consequently there is less chance for a labourer to rise to be a farmer. In the valley of the Usk nearly all the married men work by the job at 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. There are very few married men in regular employ; but they are very little out of work, unless they choose to be so; there is always road work or fencing to be done, if not harvest, turnip pulling, or mowing; then there is a good deal of wood-cutting in the winter, and the wives and children, if they do not work in the fields, can make a good deal of money by nutting and the whin harvest in some parts (M. 84, 87). Besides this many such men have small holdings of their own, held under a nominal rent sometimes, to most of which gardens are attached, considerably larger than in most English counties. In this district (M. 87) men generally prefer irregular job work; they want to get on the roads or railway. On the other hand, up on the Radnorshire hills, in the Cwmyoy valley in Monmouthshire, and, I believe, on the Monmouthshire hills, the out-door agricultural labourer hardly exists. There

Farm servants turn to farmers.

Job men in Monmouthshire.

Mutual assistance in Radnorshire and Monmouthshire hills.

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Q.

are not so many hands wanted here, and a carpenter or anybody else will come out for a few days; there is no real scarcity of male labour. "We help one another too," says Mr. Price, of Maesgwyn (R. 40), "often lend one another a team; and in the case of small farmers, they will often go out "together, and get in the harvest on one farm first, and then off to the next. It is a system very hard "for English people to understand; but the labourers here are not many, and those that are are as well "off as many of the farmers. Many of the people are half farmers, half labourers; men, for instance, "who pay 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year rent, will work a day or two on their own land, and the rest of the week "at 2*s.* a day for some larger farmer." A farmer in Old Radnor, who farms 90 acres, of which half is arable, with only two men living in the house, if he wants another hand in summer gets one of the neighbouring lime-burners to come out (R. 28). One of them will often borrow his team in the winter, saying if he will lend it he will do a day's work for him in the summer.

Little room for female employment on a hill farm.

29. From this it may be seen that on a Welsh-hill farm, such as those in these two counties, there is no room for organized female employment. Labourers' wives, in fact, where there are labourers, seldom or never work out at all: but as we have seen in every farm there are one or more female servants, whose work is by no means always confined to the house. I heard, however, general complaints among the farmers that the girls are now getting above out-door work, and consider themselves only called upon to do household work. In the west of Radnorshire farmers like to get a Cardiganshire girl; she will do a lot of out-door work, such as all the milking, and going out to spread manure, &c. But when they come into this county they soon get above that; they will come at about 16, but in two years they will be as particular as the Radnorshire girls (R. 17). It seems that the natives of Radnorshire appreciate a hardworking wife; for in Cwmdauddwr parish I heard as one of the reasons of Welsh being still talked there that so many of the men have married girls from Cardiganshire, where Welsh is still talked. Radnorshire girls will generally begin service at from 12 to 15 years of age; it is the career of nearly all of them; they stay in service usually till they marry. A carpenter's daughter to whom I talked at Newbridge (R. 11) had gone to service at 13 in a farmhouse; she would do a little out-door work now and then, such as setting potatoes and going out in the harvest; she did the milking too. She and a young man of 20 were the only people working on the farm besides the farmer and his son.

Female farm servants.

Farmers' daughters.

30. The girl thus employed is however in no sense a drudge; she is treated on a footing of equality in every respect, such as having her meals with the family, and such work as she is expected to do is only that done by his daughters, if the farmer has any. In cases where a farmer who is not a rich man, and few are rich here, has daughters, he will often have no servant at all, his wife and daughters doing all the women's work (R. 9, 10). On one point only did I hear complaints as to the system, and those were on the ground of immorality. The Rev. W. Williams writes (R. 23):—"The morals of the young "women in this district are I fear very much corrupted. It is with much regret that I state that "it is quite the exception for young women of the rank of farmer's daughters and downwards to be "married before they are far gone with child." Owing to the children being mostly located in farm-houses at 13 (M. 97), there is little crowding in cottages, and little harm can be traced to that.

Immorality in Radnorshire.

Employment of children in hill districts.

31. As a rule in the hill country farmers' children begin work considerably earlier than labourers'. Some of them begin at 8 years of age to work for their parents; not only the children of small farmers, but those of the large farmers too (M. 96). A farmer with a small holding in the Cwmyoy valley told me that his boy began to work almost as soon as he could walk, and could lead a horse at 7 or 8 years of age (M. 97). "A farmers' boy," he added, "generally manages a horse better than "a labourer's because he begins earlier. A labourers' boy does not begin till 10, and has not the "same advantages." He has not the same opportunities of being about with his father and his elder brothers and the horses. The farmer's family living nearly as much out of doors as indoors, it is a child's amusement to get away among the horses. When a little older he is proud of being able to drive the sheep and cattle and set and pick potatoes. There is no bird-keeping, and all ploughing is done by pair-horse teams, so that a boy is not necessary to lead the horses, though often he will come out for his own amusement, and although there are not birds to be scared, a farmer will often plant a little bit of land with corn without fencing it and keep his children at home to keep the cattle out of it. A farmer finds it an economy to employ his own children, and will rather work them than a labourer's child whom he has to pay (R. 20). As to their being overworked, we hear nothing of that.

(3.)—Education.

Schools newly built in hill districts.

32. It is very satisfactory to find that, though hitherto very ill-provided with schools, considerable efforts are being made in the hills to repair the deficiency. In the union of Rhayadr, which contains only nine Radnorshire parishes, I counted no less than four schools built during the few late years, and at another parish there is one just going to be commenced. To get up the funds for these schools has generally been a work of time and difficulty; the resident gentry are few, and the farmers poor, their money is hardly earned, and so not lightly to be parted with (R. 14), besides though thinking it right that every child should know how to read and write they do not think it necessary he should know much more. That that amount is necessary however seems generally agreed, and I found among the farmers in this union, especially on the hills, a great wish that their children should be educated to that extent. Thus in the valley of the Wye, where for a distance of 10 miles there is no other school, one of the farmers who has a good deal of room has given a room in his farm for the purpose, and the neighbours have combined to keep a schoolmaster for the six winter months. There is an attendance of about 15 children (R. 20.)

Extent of parishes interferes with school attendance.

33. In an ordinary English parish one such school as exists in most parishes of this union would be sufficient, but the extent of these Radnorshire parishes is very great, and the population very scattered. Thus the parish of Cwmdauddwr contains 32,000 acres; that of Nantmel is 10 miles long; that of Cwmyoy in Monmouthshire is seven miles long; the population of Cwmyoy is little over 600, that of Cwmdauddwr not quite 800, and that of Nantmel about 1,400; so that each of these parishes having a capital school house would, if compact, have sufficient accommodation for all the children resident there.

Cwmdauddwr schools.

34. Of these parishes Cwmdauddwr is perhaps the most unfortunately situate. The school is in one corner close to Rhayadr, and is more a town than a country school: in fact, an arrangement

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Q. is made by which the boys come to Cwmdauddwr school, the girls to Rhayadr. It is open to all denominations, but on Sunday each chapel has its separate school. The exertions of a resident squire have provided to a certain extent for a higher part of the parish, Nant Gwyllt, five miles from the other school, and here there is often an attendance of 50 children in a neighbourhood very sparsely inhabited. Besides these two schools there is that in the Wye valley mentioned above, but there is a large mountain tract, within reach of which there is no school. It is a subject, however, for congratulation that the distances to which the children will often come to school are considerable; often they will walk, there and back, as far as four or five miles (R. 1), bringing their dinner to school with them to eat there. Some of the farmers even go to the expense of boarding and lodging them in Rhayadr for the advantage of the schools.

Abbeycwmhir. 35. At Abbeycwmhir, the schoolmaster mentioned two boys, the sons of men with small holdings (R. 3), who lodge in the village. He has children coming as far as from four miles, and some little ones who come nearly two miles.

Newbridge. 36. At Newbridge (R. 6) "there are a good many come four and five miles, walking there and back "every day; some from the adjacent parish of Disserth."

Nantmel. 37. In Nantmel, which has an area of 16,000 acres, there are two schools, the National school and a British, a mile and a half distant from one another. The rector (R. 14) wants very much to get some more schools, as all children in outlying parts have to go to other parishes or to no school at all. In parishes such as Nantmel and Cwmdauddwr some children never go to school at all; but the people send them if they can. At Newbridge, where there is a very energetic schoolmaster, the people seem to take a great interest in their school,—a capital building erected two years ago. On the day on which I visited it there were present three young men, and as many big girls. The young men have been in service, but have only taken service this time for six months in order to come to school the six winter months. The schoolmaster himself (R. 6) attributes a portion of this interest to the fact of the people having felt the want of a school so long.

School attendance better in winter than in summer. 38. With regard to the regularity of school attendance, I found in the instances in which statistics were given that on a rough computation two-thirds of the children on the books attended on an average daily throughout the year, the attendance in winter being always better than in summer. For though naturally the weather and shortness of days prevents many of the distant children from attending school in winter with regularity, this is amply compensated by the fact that all the children, who work out on their fathers' farms, or for farmers, work in the summer months, and there is little work done by children in winter. The difference therefore is not very great. The Rev. Mr. Evans, of Abbeycwmhir, a parish in which there is scarcely a village at all, and nearly all the children come some distance to school, was good enough to provide me with his statement of average attendance during the four quarters of year (R. 2), from which it will be seen that the best attendance was in the two winter quarters, the months of October to March, the average being in the two quarters 44 to 46. It was much the worst in the spring quarter, when it had fallen to 33; in the summer had risen again to 41. The proportion of attendance to the number on the register differed little throughout the year, except that in the quarter from January to March the proportion was far better than at any other time, 48 to 57, against in the preceding quarter, 45 to 67. In the three Cwmdauddwr schools (R. 20) the average summer attendance was 68 boys against 81 in winter, and 32 girls against 39. It must be recollected that at the principal school there are only boys. At the Cwmyoy school, which I visited in November, there were 23 children present, out of 27 on the books that week. From January to March the schoolmistress estimated the attendance at about 10 more; in the summer it dwindles to 11, and they only little ones,—the youngest aged 2, the eldest, a girl, 11 (M. 95). As a rule, the labourers' boys stay later in age than the farmers', and also come more regularly; few of the former begin any work before 10 years of age; of the latter many only come to school at intervals of work.

Abbeycwmhir schools.

Cwmdauddwr schools.

Cwmyoy.

Schools in Chepstow and Monmouth unions. 39. In the English districts of these counties children are taken away from school usually at an age in proportion to the general poverty of the parish or the personal influence exercised in the parish by clergyman or squire, the influence of the clergy of all denominations being naturally less than in most English counties, in consequence of the variety of forms of religion that prevail; but now that pair-horse ploughing has come in there is little work for very small boys to do for the farmers. Thus in the parish of Llangwym, one of the few of any considerable extent in which there is now no school,* the vicar assured me (M. 49) that he did not believe that on that account the boys go earlier to work—"there is really little work for boys to do." In the hill districts between this parish and Chepstow children are taken the earliest to work. The Rev. R. Hall, at Shirenewton (M. 40), says, that "boys go as young as 8 to keep crows, and do not come "back much after; they get apple-picking, potato setting and picking, and, when they are a "little older, holding horses." The schoolmaster at Newchurch mentioned that "children are taken "as early as 7 to work in the fields; they generally begin at crow-keeping a few weeks in the spring; "also for nutting, potato setting, apple picking, and leasing; they all come back again. Girls leave "the school at 9 to 11, and get regular work, if they can, generally farmhouse work." The schoolmaster at Magor says (M. 61), that "the time of year when boys are taken away to mind crows is in "September and October. There is a boy of 10 away minding crows now. In April and May they "go to plant potatoes. As a rule, they come back, but the schoolmaster generally has to go off to "the cottages to see about getting them back. I am going after two or three to night." The schoolmistress at Raglan says, "Boys are taken away for a time very often, but they come back generally; "they go to mind the birds. Some have been away, and are now away potato picking. Some go "very young, at 7 or 8 years of age. In summer quite a third of the children go; they come back "about now, and will be off again in the spring."

Shirenewton.

Newchurch.

Magor.

Raglan.

Other causes besides early labour interfering with school attendance—poverty. 40. In poor parishes a good many children are kept away from school "because of the penny" (M. 47). Sometimes when the Monday is very wet they are kept away from school all the week; but when the Monday is fine, and the penny once paid, the parents will send them pretty regularly all the week. It sounds at first an absurdity to suppose that one penny can be any great consideration, but when it is recollected that in many cases there are some four, five, or six children of an age to go to school, and there is only 9s. or 10s. in money coming into the house weekly, it is a great temptation, especially where the management is not good, to keep the children idling at home. Distance is often

Distance.

* Money has been collected, and one is immediately to be commenced.

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an obstruction, especially in wet weather, though not to the same extent as in the hills; but there are several parishes (M. 46), especially the smaller ones, which have no school at all, and the children from these, who are not within reach of a neighbouring parish, get little or no schooling at all. At Llangwym, where there is a population of 400, some 10 or 12 children go to the adjoining parish of Llansoy, and some few to other neighbouring parishes; the rest go to no school at all, except one or two dame schools, which are now and then established for a time, and then die out. Of course, in every parish there are some few families who do not appreciate the advantage of schooling, perhaps never having been themselves, or wanting the money for other purposes,—too often drink. Their children either never go to school, or very seldom, and then only when pressure is put on them. At Magor even, which is on the whole a well-managed parish, there is a cottage close to the school, the children in which never come to school, except on Sunday. Q.

41. On the subject of night schools I need make few remarks, principally for the reason that there are hardly any in these counties. This is easy to understand in the hill parishes, because, on account of their great extent, it is absurd to expect the people to come out at night, after a long day's work a walk of several miles to school and back. In the lower grounds I cannot help thinking that the cause of their being so few is the variety of forms of our religion into which the people are split up. As long as the teachers are content to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic all goes well; but I have always found that owing to the work done by the schoolmasters during the day they are little able to teach at night, and the work generally falls on the clergyman, who naturally wishes to add religious teaching. Among other difficulties one gentleman told me that his greatest was that he could not get the boys he wanted. What he wanted was the boys who had lately left the day school, and the young men, and he found that those who came were too often the boys still of an age to come to the day school, who made the night school rather an excuse for not coming to the other. Another gentleman told me as a reason for his night school having failed that he thought all the children already knew when they left the day school as much as was taught at the night school. Night schools.

42. In these counties I found, as a rule, that boys' labour as required by farmers need clash very little with the school. It was a generally expressed opinion among the farmers that boys under 12 are really of very little use (M. 39), and certainly I feel sure that nobody in these counties employing labour could have reason to object to any of the very moderate recommendations embodied in your late report on the English counties. The boys I found keeping birds were generally about 10 or 11 years of age,—a little younger in some instances,—but even those so employed are, or can be, at school, if there is one within reach, at least half of the year. A great deal of work is done by them as little children in their parents' gardens, for many labourers have large holdings, and a great deal by farmers' children for their parents. At what age do farmers require boy's labour?

4.—Cottages.

43. Throughout the greater part of Monmouthshire I am sorry to say I had occasion to observe that the cottages were not at all up to the mark of those in Radnorshire, either as to quality or as to numbers. One peculiarity which accounts for this in some measure is the quantity of small freeholds and what are called cot-rents,—cottages which pay only a small, in many cases a nominal, rent to the landlord. Of these there are more than 800 on the Duke of Beaufort's estate alone. The reasons which have led to their growing up are various; principally that some years ago little narrow strips of land were left along the sides of the roads, land not being so valuable as now; or that, a new road being made, perhaps a corner was cut off a farm, so small that it was not thought worth while to re-enclose it. Some individual would put up a little cottage here, generally a mere hovel at first, but in course of time as he became more sure of not being disturbed in his possession, would improve the house, and take in more and more garden land along the roadside, till there has grown up in some parishes,—Raglan, for instance,—a sort of long narrow field cutting off the farm from the roadside, and cut up into small holdings, each with a garden, sometimes with an orchard attached, and sometimes even, if the holding be larger, a bit of corn or roots. Some of these are freeholds; but the greater part pay some small rent to an adjoining proprietor. The greater number of these cotters pay 10*s.* a year, some as low as 6*d.* (M. 78). The system, however, is going out very much now; very few of the small freeholds are left. When the present proprietor of Dingestow (M. 23) came into his property all the cottages were owned by squatters, some freeholds, some cot-rents; he has now bought up all the freeholds, the people coming and asking him to do it. It sounds very well at first that every labourer should have his own little holding, but it too often ends in his only making use of it to borrow money which he can never repay, and getting into the hands of some small money-lender, who will sell him up mercilessly. The copyholders ought to be better off than the freeholders, for they pay small rents, and are therefore less able to mortgage, while their cottage is obtained practically almost as cheap as a freehold. The fact of the matter is that a freeholder with his cottage mortgaged is worse off than a tenant at its full value, inasmuch as he must pay the interest or will be sold up, and never have a repair done for him, while his landlord is far more likely to be lenient, and is expected to keep the building in repair. Paucity of cottages in Monmouthshire. Cot-rents. Extinction of small freeholds.

44. Some of the cots are wretched hovels: others again, where a man has thriven, are often very good houses. At Raglan I saw one hardly fit to live in, and another a capital slated cottage, two stories high, with three windows on the top storey and one on each side of the door below (M. 20). The Duke's agent told me that his cotters are a great disadvantage to him. Remarks are often made as to the badness of their cottages, and made undeservedly; he can do nothing for them but pull them down altogether, or improve them and raise the rent. To do the latter is very difficult, for they do not at all understand the value of a good cottage (M. 24). They have only one advantage that I could see; they all have capital gardens; nearly every cottage is Monmouthshire has an excellent garden. At Usk, I saw from the rate book that nearly every cotter has at least an acre of land; in one page of about 20 holdings were only two less than an acre (78). Usk itself, which is called a town, is really a very large collection of houses and gardens, nearly every house having a good garden at its back. Condition of cots. Gardens excellent.

45. The cotters are much poorer than the ordinary agricultural labourer who gets 2*s.* a day. They will work for 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and only work by job work, getting a job from a farmer now and Cotters very poor.

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Q. then. Most of them have built their houses close to the woods, and some earn a good deal of money in the winter as woodmen, but a good deal of pilfering goes on besides, the women taking wood not only for their own firing, but also to sell to the bakers in the towns (M. 4, 24).

Cottages in country towns.

46. The worst cottages that I saw in Monmouthshire, next to those of some of the poorer cotters, were those on the outskirts of the smaller towns, inhabited by agricultural labourers. In this county it has been for a long time not the habit for landed proprietors to build cottages, and consequently in such towns as Usk and Caerleon there is a large agricultural population, going out in many instances long distances to work. There is one parish in the Newport union which has little population beyond the rector's family. The vicar of Caerleon (M. 64) mentioned that some of his parishioners go out to work at parishes four and five miles distant. People go out from Usk to work at Llangibby, parts of which are three and four miles distant (M. 84). The same thing is found over most of the county.

Rents high.

The great scarcity of cottages has of course a tendency to keep up the rents, and, as a rule, in Monmouthshire I found rents paid for cottages disproportioned to the income of the labourer, except in the case of proprietors living on their land, who are aware that it is impossible to ask a labourer more than 1*s.*, or at most 1*s.* 6*d.*, a week cottage rent without impoverishing him. At every meeting of Boards of Guardians that I attended the general complaint was that they wanted more cottages. They have done tolerably well without them up to the present time by keeping labourers in the house: but as the farms have been consolidated the farmer has begun to find the need of cottages for some of his men in regular employ to live in. He has not room for all in his house, and he is a higher class of man, and cannot live with his servants. But the great question we have had to deal with all along comes of how cottage property is to remunerate the owner, and yet not be too expensive for a labourer to live in. Too often we find the labourer quite content to live in a poor place that is really worth no more than the 3*l.* a year he can afford; but it is the general opinion now that such places are unfit for a man to live in, and any landlord who has such cottages on his property is justly the subject of comment. The Union Chargeability Bill, which was passed to prevent people from pulling down their cottages with a view to escaping rates, has not had much effect as yet. It was passed with the object of taking away the benefit that accrued to the agriculturist by forcing the town to pay for his old and feeble, and so inducing him to build cottages, but it has not had this result. The fact is, remarks Major Herbert in allusion to this question, cottages will not pay, and people will not build them (M. 90). Mr. Lyne (57), Mr. Herbert of Llanarth's agent, calculates that a good cottage costs 100*l.*, and to make it pay you must charge 8*l.* rent a year, whereas 3*l.* is about all a labourer can afford. Lord Tredegar calculates that a cottage must pay 6 per cent. to remunerate the owner. He charges 3*l.* for a labourer's cottages, which is about half its value (M. 55). But, of course, it is only large proprietors who can afford this liberality. The class of cottages that are built in small agricultural towns belongs generally to small proprietors, who must make profit out of them, and can only do so by stinting repairs, and asking a large rent. It is a somewhat rare thing in Monmouthshire to find a three-bedroomed cottage, but one redeeming feature of the cottage property in the county is that there is little overcrowding. The children, boys and girls, are almost all taken at 12 or 14 years of age, some earlier, to service in the farm houses, consequently little immorality can be traced to this cause; we must seek most of it, as before stated, in the farmhouses themselves.

Farmers in want of cottages.

Little overcrowding.

Radnorshire cottages.

47. In the hill farms of Radnorshire there is little need for cottages; a greater necessity is, of course, arising now with the enlarging of the farms, and we find that in many instances old farm houses are turned into cottages for the labourers. Where the English farming has penetrated at all the county may be compared to its advantage with Monmouthshire. In the course of my tour I saw in many quarters symptoms of great activity in cottage building; on the road, for instance, from Newbridge to Rhayadr, and from Penybont to Abbeycwmhir. At the latter place Mr. Phillips has built lately some excellent brick cottages, for which he charges only 4*l.* rent; but they are rather on too expensive a scale to serve as a general type of model cottages, costing him 400*l.* a pair (R. 5); they are sufficiently good for the village schoolmaster to live in one. At Doldowlod the same remarks would apply. In the village of St. Harmon's, one of the worst out-of-the-way parts of the country, though some of the cottages were very bad, I was glad to see that decided improvement has been made of late years, principally owing to the railway, the benefit of which to this county is apparent in almost every part. There seemed to be three different classes of cottages. The old ones, of which there cannot be above half-a-dozen now, and which are gradually disappearing, would form the first class. One I visited consisted of only two rooms, separated from one another by a partition, of which a high old-fashioned fire-place seemed to be the principal part. The walls were built of rubble, and thatched, and the roof so low that inside a man putting up his hand could touch any part (R. 19). The whole kitchen was so small that when the Rev. Mr. Evans, who took me there, and I were inside, there seemed little room for ourselves, or the three other people we found there, to move. The next class were more substantial looking buildings of stone with tile roofs, but only one story high. The best class seemed as good as one could wish anywhere,—stone and tile, and two stories high. These last only have been built since the railway came and facilitated the transport of stone and lime. But, as above stated, some of the worst specimens of cottages are to be found in the outskirts of the agricultural towns, in Rhayadr, for instance (R. 1), and in Cwmdauddwr, which is in fact a suburb of Rhayadr. In this latter place (R. 22) I visited some cottages in no degree better than the very worst at St. Harmon's, and there did not seem to be the same sort of improvement going on. The suburban cottages, inhabited by agricultural labourers, as a rule, belong to small men living in the town, whereas the few cottages situate in the country belong to the landed proprietors who, being richer men, can afford to give more money for repairs and ask a lower rent. There are in Monmouthshire, as far as I saw, few cottages as bad as some of those in Radnorshire: but the progress of improvement is far more rapid in the latter country than in the former.

Mr. Phillip's cottages.

St. Harmon's cottages.

Cwmdauddwr cottages.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

January 9, 1870. ROBERT F. BOYLE.

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Mr. Portman.

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EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. PORTMAN'S REPORT.

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GLAMORGANSHIRE.

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1. MEETING OF THE COWBRIDGE FARMERS' CLUB.

November 2nd, 1869.

The Rev. H. Morgan, of St. Athan's, occupied the chair, and there were also present Mr. J. Garsed, Dr. Lewis, Rev. C. R. Knight, Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, Mr. Bodington, Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, Mr. Gordon, Tondu, Mr. Culverwell, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. Price, Mr. Alexander, Monkton, Mr. Howe, Rev. T. Edmondes, Rev. T. Williams, M.A., Mr. L. V. Huntley, Mr. H. Garsed, Mr. T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Mr. L. Thomas, Tydraw, Major Turberville, Mr. D. B. Davies, Eglwysbrewis, &c.

Mr. Gordon, of Tondu, said he had had some experience in regard to the employment of women for agricultural purposes. He agreed with Mr. Portman that if married women were employed from January to January in field labours, their homes were not what they should be. But with regard to unmarried females from 14 to 18 years of age he approved of their being employed. When over 18 years they generally got married, and were, in his district, rarely seen afterwards at field work. With regard to the age at which children should be employed, his experience led him to the conclusion that it was not desirable to employ boys under 10 years of age. He thought that up to that age they should be sent to school, and as a father of children he should be sorry to see them go to work before that age. Indeed he did not think that boys should be employed much between 10 and 12 years, for if they had boys on their farms they must put them to hard work, which was perhaps too hard sometimes for boys of that age. With regard to the distances which the agricultural labourers had to travel before reaching their homes, they varied very much in the district. He thought no married woman with a family should be required to commence work before half-past eight in the morning, so that she might be able to attend to her family before leaving home, and also have time to walk the one or two miles which she has generally to go before reaching her work. She should have one hour for dinner, and be allowed to leave work so as to reach home about half-past five, so that she might have time to prepare for her husband's return. He had found that by letting the women have a little time in the evening, it had generally resulted in their having happier homes. The hours of unmarried women should be from eight to six o'clock. As to the health, he found few people more healthy than the women employed in the fields, and illness was much less amongst them than was the case with those employed in factories and indoors. Education, he thought, was very deficient, and he should like to see some steps taken which would guard against a continuance of the present state of ignorance. The only way to do this, he thought, was to put the means of education within the reach of the children. Let them put education within their reach at a low rate. But he did not approve altogether of making it compulsory. They could not expect that the result of such a system would be felt so much by the present as the next generation, which would probably send their children to school without being asked. He thought that they could spare their boys between 12 and 14, in the winter months, to go to an evening school two or three times a week. His own impression was that boys between 12 and 14 would be likely to derive more advantage in two hours than during ten hours in the day before they were 10 years old, because by the time they reached 12 or 14 years they would have began to appreciate the advantages of education.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, said he was opposed to women between 14 and 18 years of age working in the fields. He thought that the most critical part of their lifetime, and their employment in fields then exposed them to many dangers which had a prejudicial effect upon their welfare.

Mr. Robert Howe, of St. Marychurch, said that Mr. Gordon's experience related to the neighbourhood of the tip girls; but the Vale of Glamorgan was different. He (the speaker) had never seen girls of from 15 to 17 years of age working in the fields, but he had found married women assisting their husbands during harvest time. It was not a general thing in the neighbourhood for women to be employed in the fields, except in clipping turnips and picking weeds, and occasionally at harvest time. As a general rule, the woman had a house and several children. The boys were sent from home to the farmhouse, where they received 4*l.* or 5*l.*, and that money was generally

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reckoned upon by the parents to pay the rent, or buy a pig, or something of that sort. Boys and young girls were, however, not as a rule employed in the Vale of Glamorgan. The children were generally taken care of by the rector of the parish. A penny a week generally paid for the school, and the rector took care of them on the Sunday. There was generally, also, a night school, and he (the speaker) took care that his boys had an hour or two at night to go to it. That was in the Vale of Glamorgan. He thought that boys should be sent from home when they were from 8 to 9 years of age, for if they were kept at home till they were 13 or 14 they thought it a hardship to have to go to work. If they kept them till that time he thought they would have to make additions to their workhouses and gaols.

Mr. Portman asked Mr. Howe at what age he gave boys 4*l.* or 5*l.* a year?—Mr. Howe replied, when they were about 10 years of age, and that was exclusive of their keep.

Mr. Alexander, of Monkton, said when he was young—or within the last 20 years—the rule was to keep women working in the fields in his parish, and he had seen as many as 30 women on a farm in a day. Now it was very difficult to get any women to work in the fields, and it was the exception for them to do so now. This was principally owing to the increase of wages to the men—about 30 per cent.,—which gave them the opportunity of enjoying the advantages of a good home. As to young girls, they generally took care of the house when their mothers were out. His parish had not a school, but there was one in the adjoining parish. With regard to the age of the boys, farmers found them of little service under 10 years, except for bird-keeping, and they generally took them into service for the advantage of their fathers. In their district they were generally in such a fix for labourers, owing to mining operations, that they had to entice people to work, but women, girls, and boys were rarely employed by them. They enjoyed better health than any other class of workers, and with regard to education, he found that as people acquired means and cultivated steady habits, they generally took advantage of opportunities for getting education. He had brought up a number of boys, who, after becoming acquainted with reading and writing, had gone into other occupations, such as artizans and porters, and done well. Men who formerly got 8*s.* or 10*s.* a week, now became possessed of education, and earned their 15*s.* or 20*s.* a week.

Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, said, that as a considerable employer of labour, he could say that women were employed on farms to great advantage. They were generally employed by the piece or job, and not by the day. They worked four or five hours a day, and materially assisted the farmer, and aided in the support of their families without any of the bad effects which the Hon. Mr. Portman had spoken of. Where labour was so high—in few districts was it so high as theirs—he did not think it desirable to interfere with the employment of women. He did not think it was quite right that women should be kept from their house from 7 in the morning till 6 at night—they did not do so in his district. They employed boys from 8 to 10 years bird-keeping and other similar work, which they required them to do at certain seasons of the year. For six months out of the twelve farmers could arrange to do without boys. It would not be to the advantage of the children to interfere with their employment during certain portions of the year. As to the health, the ruddy faces of the boys were the best indication they could have. Cottage accommodation was the great defect in this part of the district. They wanted to get respectable men to settle down in their farms, and his experience was that they left them because they had not comfortable homes. (Loud applause.) In their places they were compelled to pick up tramps from the road. He thought education was a great thing, but education began at home, and he said let them have good cottages, and they would have respectable men settling down amongst them instead of running away. (Applause.) If that had been attended to before they would not have heard so much about the question of education.

Mr. Portman.—How many hours are the boys engaged in bird-keeping? Is it not a fact they are out from daylight to dark?—Mr. Wright.—Generally from after breakfast until night; sometimes from 7 till 5.

Mr. Culverwell said that comfortable cottages were the great reformation that was required in that part of the country. He might say that there were a hundred cottages in the immediate neighbourhood which were without ceilings. They had inspectors of cattle, and why not have inspectors of cottages? (Cheers.) They were calling upon the poor employers of the land, but why not call upon the landlords to attend to the cottages? (Cheers.) They sent for labourers to all parts of the country, and whether they had cottages or not they had to give them high wages. He said landlords ought to be compelled to provide a proper number of good cottages, and then there would be a great improvement in the condition of the labourers. (Hear.) He approved of boys being sent early to work, as in his experience they turned out more useful labourers, and by going to night schools in the winter were as well educated as any. He had taken boys from the union and boys from school, and they were not equal to the boys brought up on the farm.

Mr. Portman.—Do the boys live in the farmhouse?—No, I don't keep boys in the house. I don't think we ought to keep them in the house, they ought to live with their parents. It was a great loss if a boy or man had to walk a long distance to his work. He found that the more job work that was given them the better it is for the farmers. They got more for their pound than they did by day work.

Mr. J. Garsed.—At what age do boys generally go into your employ?—Mr. Culverwell.—My boys generally commence between 10 and 12. I take them when they are young a few hours to commence with.

Mr. Price thought that 10 years of age and upwards in this country was the age at which boys commenced work, and it would not pay farmers to take them below that age. Girls and women were employed to a small extent; but he did not think there was a woman or child employed to every 500 acres throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. (Cries of "No," and "Yes.") The ordinary distance that men had to walk to get to their work was about half a mile. Women's work was principally piecework, and consisted of weeding and trimming turnips. Their health was good, and education was above the average of any county in England.

Mr. John Thomas, auctioneer, said Mr. Gordon's remarks referred to the western part of the district, near the works about Bridgend. He did not think, if they wanted women in their district, they could get them, and boys were not employed under 10 years. When women went out to work it was generally because they had drunken husbands, or only one or two children. The greatest want of all was an improvement in the labourers' cottages, but that improvement was being commenced. Their labourers' cottages were as bad as in any county they could name. (Cries of "Shameful.")

Mr. John Garsed desired to make a few remarks, which he would state as briefly as possible. As to the age at which children were employed in that district, he found that, as a rule, in his locality children were taken to work from 7 years upwards. When taken at so young an age it was generally through charitable motives, and in order to assist the father. His own opinion was, that the employment of one man with a gun over a farm to scare away birds was more profitable than having boys. He personally did not think that it would prove beneficial to fix a definite age at which boys should not be employed; but he was willing to concede the point and say that no child should be employed under 10 years. A good deal

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Glamorganshire.

Mr. Portman.

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had been said as to night schools, but he found from his experience that unless children were taught at an early age, when they easily received impressions, that they did not afterwards benefit much at the night schools. With regard to the employment of women and girls for farm work, very little was done in that neighbourhood. Although there was much work to be done, sufficiently good wages were brought home by the man as not to require the employment of the wife in farm work. He had a strong opinion that no unmarried woman should be employed in out-door agricultural labour. There could be no doubt that the moral tone of the female was lowered by the people she was brought in contact with at such work. He not think, however, that legislative interference in women's work was necessary. The question might very well be left alone, because, owing to the high rate of wages, it was optional with the female whether she would assist the husband or not. The hours of work and distance from home were questions affected by the want of cottages. Some were compelled on this account to walk considerable distances, and, as Mr. Culverwell remarked, that took a great deal out of the stamina of the individual. His own opinion was, that no child under 12 years should be compelled to walk more than one mile to the place of work. As to the health of the agricultural labourer it was good, but the medical gentleman present would be better able to inform them on that matter. He would be able to speak of the injury done to the constitution of women by field labour. At the same time he (Mr. Garsed) did not think that they suffered like females in factories. As to education, that was the great question upon which that inquiry would turn. The state of education amongst agricultural labourers in that district was not what it ought to be (applause.) There was a variety of causes to account for this—in some instances a want of schools, though that was rapidly disappearing; in others, the necessities of the parents demanded that the children should soon earn an honest penny; in others, the neglect of the parents allowed the children to remain in the same state of ignorance in which the parents were in themselves. As to a hard and fast line, he thought too much had been said. Many objected to compulsion. People were compelled to pay taxes and to do many things which were distasteful, but the question resolved itself into this—whether through the greed of employers and the necessities of the parents, the future of those children was not to be ameliorated by the neglect of education? (Cheers.) He was not an advocate for compelling children who were employed in light work to leave that source of revenue alone, but he did think that means should be adopted for enabling a boy to obtain a certain number of hours of instruction in the course of a week, and that if an employer took a child without a certificate that he had had that instruction, he should be penalized. With reference to these schools being supported by Government grants, which he was in favour of, he thought that a rate should be made upon the occupiers of land, for he thought they were all bound to see that the means of education was placed within reach of the agricultural labourer's children; for how could a man with 11 or 12 children see to the education of his children. It was their place to see that a system of elementary education was provided for all their children, but if the labourers wanted anything beyond that, they must pay for it as a luxury. He hoped that the club would come to some conclusion, so that the hon. gentleman who had visited them might return with some idea of their views upon the points submitted to them.

After sundry remarks by preceding speakers, the chairman proposed—"That it is the opinion of this club that no person should be employed in agriculture under the age of 10 years, and that girls and unmarried women under 18 years of age should not be employed in agricultural labour." The resolution was carried unanimously.

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2. *Letter from Evan David, Esq., Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians, to Hon. E. Portman.*

"Fairwater House, Cardiff,
"My Dear Sir, 1st November 1869.

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo . . Before, however, I proceed to reply to the several inquiries it contains, excuse my remarking, with reference to your observation that you think it 'generally the case that the attendance at school of children under 10 years of age is irregular,' that in my opinion the children of our working classes are not irregular in their attendance at school. I refer more particularly to those of our native population. But we have a large and greatly increasing number of Irish (Roman Catholics) among us, whose children are not, as a rule, sufficiently educated.

"With reference to your first question, 'whether it is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child shall be allowed to work in the fields,' my opinion is that children should not be so employed until they attain the age of 14, unless they produce certificates, obtained under certain restrictions from duly authorized schoolmasters and others, that they can read and write with facility, such certificates to be available for six months only.

"With regard to your second, 'whether prohibiting children from work until they arrive at a certain age would result in a more regular attendance at school,' and to your third, 'whether, if the age were fixed at 10, any real injury would be done to the parents,' I beg to observe that it is seldom children under 10 years are employed in the fields in this part of Glamorganshire. The proposed prohibition if fixed at 10 years of age would be virtually inoperative, and would not result, but in very exceptional cases, in loss to the earnings of the families to which they belong. As to the attendance of children at night school up to 15 or 16 years of age, I consider night schools very unsuited for our rural districts, because of the long distance children would generally have to travel by night to and from the schools.

"*You may recollect my telling you that I am much in favour of requiring all children to be taught reading and writing. These rudimentary acquirements can, I think, be better attained and kept up by giving the parents of children a pecuniary interest in the matter (which they would have according to my scheme) than by compelling children to be a certain number of days yearly in schools. For the reason stated, as well as from shame and fear lest their children should fail to pass the requisite periodical examination, parents would not unfrequently assist materially in teaching their children to read and write.

"Yours very truly,
"Evan W. David."

3. *Mr. Stephenson*, Union clerk, Cardiff.—Education in the agricultural portions of this district is chiefly obtained through the Church schools. The wages are good, owing to the constant drain of boys and young men to the mines, works, and docks. I see no objection to a prohibition of work on the farms till the children are 10 years of age. Relief is not withdrawn till children are 11 or 12 years of age; but by that time farmers would expect the children to earn some-

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* The occasion referred to was at a small meeting at the house of Mr. Brogden, at Portheawl, where, in addition to Mr. Evan David, there were present Archdeacon Blosse, Mr. Brogden, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. J. Gordon, of Tondu. The question was discussed generally, and, with the exception of Mr. Brogden, who, besides being a large employer of labour in the Tondu Iron Works, holds a considerable farm, and who was in favour of compulsion in the matter of school attendance, the opinion of those present was adverse to fixing any limit of age for work in the fields, or to *compelling* school attendance; though it was admitted that the employment of children at an early age was not desirable. The want of education for the children of farmers was said to be very great.

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thing. Little children are occasionally employed for bird-keeping and stone-picking.

This Board pays for the schooling of the children of those who are receiving out-door relief, sometimes even when relief is not being given to the parents.

4. Cardiff Union Industrial Schools.

Mr. John Harris, master.

There are 116 boys and 152 girls now in the schools, whose ages range from 9 to 14 years. There are also infants from 4 years old and upwards. They are children deserted by their parents, orphans, and those whose parents are in the workhouse. They are taken to the workhouse before being admitted to this school. The establishment is under the Poor Law.

The boys are instructed in tailoring, shoemaking, and gardening; the girls in washing, cooking, knitting, and sewing. All the under-clothing for girls and boys is made by the girls. The boys' clothes also are made on the place.

The staff consists of a schoolmaster and mistress, and of instructors in tailoring, shoemaking, and gardening, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Harris, the superintendents. All the housework is done by the girls.

The cost of maintenance, including food and clothes, is 3*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.* per week for each child. Every child on going out to service receives an outfit.

The schools have been established for six years, during which time about 200 children have been sent out, some to farm places, some to the collieries and works. I think there would be a difficulty in utilising the labour of the boys for weeding or other operations on the neighbouring farms on account of the requirement of three hours daily attendance at school. They have never yet been so employed.

5. ST. FAGAN'S AND LLANILTERN.

Population, 656 - Acreage, 3,321.

The Castle School.—Mr. Miles, master.

Number on books, 107.

Average attendance for year, 78.

Attendance in week ending October 9, 89.

Number presented to inspector, 67.

The boys remain at school till 12 years of age, and sometimes till 14. There is a great demand for boys of 13 years of age who are quick at writing and sums for the ironworks and for other places in Cardiff.

Agricultural work takes some of the boys; the children are irregular in attendance at the time of potato gathering. There is a fine of ½*d.* for non-attendance.

I think the parents are becoming more alive to the value of education for their children, and regret that they were themselves without it.

There are dames' schools in most of the small parishes, and the older children come to this school. There is no night-school.

6. *Mr. Akers*, Pentrebane, farmer, an Oxfordshire man.—I farm 600 acres; am guardian and overseer of the parish.

Women are not employed here for farm work. An Irish woman from Cardiff will occasionally come for a day's work at 1*s.* and food, or 1*s.* 6*d.* without food. The weeding of corn and stone-picking is not done by women or boys but by men by the day. Turnip-hoeing, hedge-making, and such like are done by the piece.

Boys are not employed till they are 16 or 18 years of age, and do not live in the farmhouse.

Wages for a man are 12*s.* up to 16*s.* a week. A boy of 18 years gets 12*s.* a week, and 1*l.* at harvest. I paid a man and two boys of 18 and 19 years old 96*l.* 5*s.* in the year, from which 1*s.* a week is to be deducted for house rent. Many of my men are from Oxfordshire. They are far better off here than they were there.

I have eight cottages attached to my farm. Most of the cottages in this neighbourhood have large gardens. Potato ground is to be had from the farmers at 1*s.* a perch, but it is rarely wanted on account of the size of the gardens. The labourers usually keep a pig.

The children attend school pretty regularly up to 12 and 14 years of age.

There are in the hills small holdings and sheep runs.

I think legislation is more wanted for the street arabs in towns than for the rural districts.

7. *Thomas Goddard, Esq.*, land agent.—The cultivation of St. Fagans and the hamlet of Llaniltern is about one-third pastoral and two-thirds arable.; the pastoral feature being mainly represented by the dairy and young stock.

The pair-horse system of ploughing being generally adopted, boys are not so much employed as formerly, and rarely, if ever, under 12 or 13 years of age. With very rare exceptions girls are not employed in agriculture, as a rule I may say *none*. The Welsh women are not employed on the farms, some Irish women seek and obtain such employment.

The hours of work are in summer from 6 to 6, in winter from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It would not appear that under the circumstances above referred to it is necessary in these parts to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be employed on the land.

The wages for a man are 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in ordinary times, in harvest and hay-making from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week. Women get 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

There is a good school liberally supported and well attended, and under Government inspection.

In this parish the cottages are good; in the neighbourhood they are not quite so, but more attention is now being paid to them generally. In an agricultural sense they are sufficient. The number of dwellers in *each house*, as a rule, would not be objectionable, but where attention has not been given to privacy, the number in *one room* must have evil tendencies. Education will do but little in a moral sense with this crying evil so general.

Rents vary from 2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*; in some cases they are as high as 5*l.* a year.

There are good gardens to most of the cottages, and they are usually well managed.

PETERSTON.

Population, 235 - Acreage, 2,010.

8. *Rev. L. C. Lewis*, rector.—The farms in this parish are very small; there may be three containing above 100 acres, but the average size is 50 or 60 acres. The farmers are for the most part men who have risen from the position of labourers and are very uneducated. The sons of small farmers work as labourers when they are grown up and married. There is no resident squire, and no return of the money drawn from the land.

Some children are employed as young as 6 or 7 years of age. There was no school in the parish when I first came to it. The population is small and scattered.

There is great irregularity in school attendance on the part of boys above 9 years of age. I think some form of compulsion is wanted in the matter of school attendance.

I think the employment of females in agriculture tends to demoralise and unfits them for domestic duties. I do not think it desirable for them to be so employed, but there is no necessity in this parish for any restriction.

Boys should not be employed in the fields at all under 10 years of age, nor under 12 years unless a certificate of a certain amount of schooling be produced.

Our cottage accommodation is deplorable. It consists of old thatched buildings, very low, with one living room, a portion of which is generally partitioned

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off for a pantry, and a general garret or sleeping room for the whole family. I would suggest that cottages should be inspected, and that those found unfit for human habitation should be condemned, more especially as I feel confident that the moral and social status is impaired by such a state of things.

There is one cottage to about 150 acres. The dwellings are generally crowded, and have not a sufficient number of bedrooms.

No Irish property can present more wretched consequences of absenteeism than this. The only consideration the parish receives from the owners of property is the regular collection of rents.

I have tried a night school for two winters, but the attendance was very small.

9. *Peterston School*, Miss Hardwick, mistress.—On books, 18 boys and 21 girls; the attendance does not vary much according to the time of year.

The daughters of small farmers work on their father's land. I do not think women are much employed in the fields.

10. *John John*, between 8 and 9 years old.—I was employed bird-scaring this spring. I had my food but no money, and was out from 7 a.m. till dark.

11. *John Thomas*, 8 years old.—I was employed during the summer by farmers with the horses. I had 6*d.* a day and all meals.

12. *John Miles*, 10 years old.—I have been employed setting and pulling potatoes for 3*d.* a day and my food. I got one hot meal of meat and vegetables every day, and breakfast and tea. I was out for three weeks last spring. My clothes wear out quicker when I am at work than when I am regular at school.

13. *Ann Rees*.—My husband is an agricultural labourer. I work in the fields sometimes, planting potatoes, and get 1*s.* a day. I have taken sheep-milking for a farmer; it lasts from May to the end of August. I got one-seventh of the produce; at first one can make an 8 lb. cheese per week, but the weight decreases. The cheese is worth 8*d.* per lb.

A man's wages, if regularly employed, are 12*s.* a week; if employed by the day or job 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Farmers have boys in their houses by the year. I have four children, and I cannot afford to lose the small earnings of the children by sending them to school. My boy of 10 years old goes to work in the fields. I know it is a good thing to have the learning, but still the sixpences are a great help.

The cottage has one room (with mortar floor) and outhouse downstairs, and one large bedroom upstairs; 25 perches of garden. Rent 3*l.* 6*s.* and rates. I can have potato ground, if I want it, from the farmer at 1*s.* a perch, dressed and turned-up.

LLANTRISSANT.

Population, 5,492 - Acreage, 16,669.

[This parish is on the edge of the hills, and a large portion of the population is engaged in the works and mines.—E.B.P.]

14. *John Morgan*, occupier and assistant overseer.—Boys are employed from the age of 11 in agricultural work, and chiefly in the summer time. There are a few girls employed in summer at haymaking and binding corn, of ages varying from 12 to 18 years. There are about 100 women in the parish who work in the fields. The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The distance to work is one mile and under. I do not think that any restriction as to the age at which boys and girls should commence work is necessary in this district.

There are two National schools, two British, and several private schools in different places in this parish, and the agricultural labouring class take advantage of them.

The number of cottages is quite sufficient for the demand, and on the average they are comfortable dwellings. There are very few without gardens, but there are no allotments.

Wages for a man are 16*s.* a week, for a woman 9*s.*; and for children 6*s.* a week.

WENVOE.

Population, 501 - Acreage, 2,955.

15. *Rev. C. Jenner*.—Very few women or children are employed in agriculture here. My experience is that the employment of females, whether married or single, altogether unfits them for the proper discharge of their domestic duties, present or future. In my parish the demand for female labour is so small that I am not prepared to recommend any legislative restriction. The wages here are so high that the labour of the women is not required for the families. If it were necessary, I would prohibit all female labour till the age of 20 years at any rate. Boys should not be employed till 12 or 13 years of age.

I would venture to recommend that a system of alternate whole days at school and at work would be the best for enforced attendance at school; but at the same time I strongly object to compulsory education.

School attendance is not here affected by distance, and as wages are high I do not think there need be any difficulty on the part of the parents in paying for their children's schooling.

I am decidedly of opinion that good cottage accommodation is *essential* to the morality as well as the health and comfort of the labouring poor.

The cottages generally are not good, and in some cases not conveniently situated for the work of the farms. There are not enough with two or three bedrooms, and they are too crowded. The drainage and water supply are bad. The rent, with small garden, is about 4*l.* a year; sometimes the cottage is included in the wages. No progress is being made towards increasing the cottage accommodation.

In country places the late hour at which a night school must begin, and therefore close, is the greatest hindrance to its success.

Wages are from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week for men. Many men live in the farmhouses. Many of the farms are very small, and the tenants not men of capital. They would oppose an education rate.

16. *Mary Howard*.—My husband is a labourer. Boys used to go to the farmhouses at 10 years old, but they are not so much used now on account of the machinery. My boy of 12 years old gets his food and about 1*s.* per week. Women are not employed in the fields. My mother used to work regularly, and I went weeding as a girl with other women. The weeding is now done by men and boys.*

Wages for a man employed all the year are 13*s.* a week, a pound of butter a week, which he gets at 1*s.* a lb., and cheese at 6*d.* a lb. Cottage with good garden rented at 1*s.* a week, the cottages being attached to the farms. A woman when employed gets 1*s.* a day.

My cottage has two rooms downstairs and two bedrooms, and a small garden. The rent is 4*l.* a year; it is the property of a small owner, and not of the squire. Sometimes I get potato ground at 1*s.* a perch.

Sheep-milking pays, but it is very hard and nasty work.

Wenvoe School.

17. *Mrs. Watkins*, mistress.

Number on books - - -	60
In attendance - - -	47

I have been mistress here for many years. The payment for each child is 1*d.* a week. The attendance in winter is better than at other times of the year. The oldest boy in the school is 11 years of age; they do not begin *regular* work before 11 years. A few boys are employed younger for bird-keeping, and get their food and perhaps 1*s.* a week. The children are absent from school in the potato season. Girls work for their parents, but *never* for the farmers.

* A *boy* in Wales means an unmarried man without reference to age.

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Women are not employed on the farms.

There was a night school here on two nights in the week; it was attended chiefly by mechanics and older men; the farm boys cannot very well attend, on account of doing up the horses, chaff-cutting, &c. in the evenings.

Uneducated parents are careless about the education of their children. I do not think that the well-educated lads leave the parish.

Boys are not so much employed on the farms as formerly.

LLANTRITHYD.

Population, 201 - Acreage, 1,450.

Cultivation mixed.

18. *George Tritton*, schoolmaster.—The school is not in receipt of any Government grant. Average number of scholars, 45 in summer, and 50 in winter. Of the children of labourers, 11 in summer, 18 in winter. The sons and daughters of farmers attend the school, and there is greater irregularity in the attendance of that class than of the labourers. The school is fullest from October to March. I think 150 attendances could be obtained from boys of 13 and 14 years of age during the winter time. There are three boys of 14 years of age in the school, and one of 15 years whose father is a large farmer. The oldest girls are 14 years old.

There was a night school last winter, but it did not answer; the farmers object to their servant boys coming out in the evening.

19. *Rev. R. T. Tyler*, rector. — No children or women are regularly employed in this parish; three or four women work occasionally in hay harvest. Children pick potatoes for their parents, and very seldom scare birds. They all live in the parish. The hours of work are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner.

I cannot speak from experience, but from all I hear and read I am convinced that the employment of young females in agriculture is most objectionable, and has a demoralizing tendency. Labourers' wages are high here, hence their wives are seldom necessitated to seek for field work. I think labourers' wives and single women of 30 years and upwards might *occasionally* be employed in field work with benefit to themselves and to the farmers.

Boys should not be employed under 10 years of age.

I have little or no complaint to make as to the regularity of school attendance in this parish. All the children above the age of six attend school; the charge is low, and the parents are in a position to pay it. The girls are taught sewing.

There is much room for improvement in the cottages. On a farm of 175 acres there are six cottages. The farmers board and lodge their workmen.

The cottages vary much in number and size of rooms; some are crowded with large families, but not with lodgers. Most of them have one sitting room, with a pantry or lean-to attached. There is generally a good sized upper bedroom under the thatched roof, which is *sometimes divided*. A bed is often placed in the sitting room. In old cottages the windows are seldom made to open, but there is no lack of air. The drainage is fair and the water supply good and near at hand. With a small exception, the whole of the parish is the property of the Rev. G. and Mrs. Chetwode, of Chilton House, Bucks. The rent of cottages is generally 1*s.* a week; a garden is attached to each.

There is no night school at present; I have had one. The great obstacle to its success is the objection of the farmers, who make their farm servants work till a late hour.

BONVILSTON.

Population, 291 - Acreage, 1,178.

20. *Thomas Eagleton*, relieving officer for St. Nicholas district, Cardiff Union. — The farms, as a rule, are small; 300 acres would be considered a large farm, though there are some larger than that. The small farmers are in many instances very badly off, and cannot afford to pay for their children's schooling; they are obliged to employ them on the farm; they are worse off than the labourer, as they do not get parish relief or the benefit of medical aid in cases of sickness.

A good deal of property in this district is held on leases for lives.

Children are not wanted on the farms so much as formerly, on account of the change in the method of driving horses in the plough, &c. The boys go into farm service about 11 years of age; they may sometimes be employed for bird-keeping and driving cattle as young as 9 years. Girls are not employed at all in the fields, and women only very seldom.

The distance to work would not usually exceed one mile, the parishes being small and situated near each other. The hours of work for men are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; for women, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I do not think it is necessary to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land.

There is a school in almost every parish, and the children attend pretty regularly. The schooling of out-door pauper children is paid for by the board, at an allowance of 3½*d.* a week for each child.

The condition of the cottages is fair; they usually have two or three bedrooms; there are very few without two bedrooms, and they are not overcrowded. The old cottages were built of stone, with thatched roof; the new ones have slate roofs. The average rent is from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* a year; they all have good gardens. Allotments are not often found in this district.

The number of illegitimate children has increased lately.

Wages for a man are from 12*s.* and a house up to 15*s.* a week; for a woman, 1*s.* a day; for boys, in bird-keeping, 3*d.* a week and food; for boys, in service, at 12 years old, 2*l.* a year, board, and lodging, with an increase of pay annually; at 18 years of age, from 14*l.* to 18*l.* a year.

The hiring is from May-day to May-day, with a month's notice. There are no hiring fairs in this district, but they are held at Neath.

Savings banks are now being taken advantage of by some farm labourers, but clubs are more popular.

PENMARK.

Population, 529 - Acreage, 2,950.

Cultivation mixed, arable, and pasture.

21. *Rev. C. F. B. Wood*, vicar.—Children are not systematically employed in this parish, but are taken by their parents to assist them, such as stone-picking or hoeing, and a boy is employed when required for scaring crows. In the autumn they are employed in harvesting potatoes. They live on or near the farms on which they are employed. The hours of work are from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner, if they do not take their meal with them. There is no injury to health arising from such employment, nor do I know of any cases of ill-treatment.

I do not think it advisable that females should be employed in farm labour. When so employed, it is impossible to prevent their associating too freely with persons of the other sex. Their sense of propriety and delicacy thereby becomes blunted, and we always find that the woman who spends the most time in field work affords in proportion a less tidy and comfortable home to her family.

Females are little employed in this parish, and I do not think that the rate of their husbands' wages furnishes a sufficient reason for their being so employed, as labourers' wages are from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and more when employed on task. I think that besides assisting in the hay and corn harvest, married women may occasionally, if required, due regard being had to the number and circumstances of their families,

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take a job of light work, such as stone-picking, without objectionable results.

I think that no boy should be withdrawn altogether from school under 13 years of age, and that none should be employed under the age of 10.

I think it highly impolitic and unjust that children should be employed at long distances from their homes; but in this parish there is no need of restrictions on this head.

It appears to me that half day at school and half day at work is likely to be best for the boy and for the employer, and if this could be varied so that the attendance at school should be morning and evening in alternate weeks the boy would have a better chance of reaping the benefits of school without any interference with the discipline or system adopted.

The attendance at school is affected by distance in the case of some of the small children living two miles from the school.

The wages in general received are sufficient to enable the parents to pay for their children's schooling, and when the family is large, or there is any peculiar difficulty, the required payment is modified accordingly.

There is a fair proportion of cottages conveniently situated. I should say there are hardly enough with two bedrooms, and almost none with three. In the cottages generally there is a sitting room from 12 to 16 feet square; in the better sort a small room on the same floor used as a bedroom, overhead is a loft, which is very rarely divided by a partition. They have also generally a lean-to, where tools, coals, &c. are kept.

There is generally a sufficient garden. Most of the cottages are let with the farms on which they stand, and rented by the labourer of the farmer. The average rents are 3*l.* per annum. In many cottages the doors, windows, and floors are in a very insufficient state of repair.

The *school* is a mixed National school under Government inspection. There is also a dame school in one of the hamlets, where there are about 15 children, chiefly girls. There is hardly any difference in the attendance between summer and winter.

—	On Register.	Average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	25	14
Between 10 and 13 -	15	8
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	26	18
Between 10 and 13 -	14	10
	80	50

There is a night school just opened by a new masters but it is hardly got into work. An evening school has been kept in some winters with tolerable success three nights in the week for an hour and a half. The number of scholars was from 6 to 10.

I do not see in what other way than by night school young people or adults whose education has been neglected can be provided with the means of repairing the evil.

The difficulties in the way of maintaining a night school are the small remuneration that it affords the teacher, and the want of interest taken by those who should be scholars, inasmuch as they undervalue education in proportion as they more need it; added to this, the expense, which is not adequately met by such payments as can be obtained from the scholars.

In the School.

22. *Ellen Mahony*, 10 years old.—I was out last year with mother working for a farmer for a fortnight. I picked up the weeds behind mother, who was hoeing. I was out from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and went home to dinner.

23. *Thomas James*, 9 years old.—I have been weeding this year for a farmer; got 9*d.* a day.

24. *John Jones*, 9 years old.—I have been out stone-picking at 9*d.* a day for a farmer. I worked from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; found my own food.

25. *James Austin*, 8 years old.—I went out bird-keeping *two years ago;* was out from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and got 6*d.* a day. I did not go on wet days.

26. *Ebenezer Kemp*, 8 years old. I have been out this year bird-keeping for a farmer. I went wet or dry from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and had 6*d.* a day and no food.

27. *Cottages.*

(1.) Attached to a farm.
One room down.
One room up.
Inhabited by father and two little girls. Rent reckoned at 1*s.* a week.

(2.) One room down.
One room up.
Privy and pigsty; very small garden. Rent 4*l.* a year. Property of the Oddfellows' Society.

(3.) Freehold.
Two rooms down.
Two rooms upstairs.
Good garden. Inhabited by man and wife, one boy, and the grandfather.

28. *Mr. Jenkins*, farmer.—Boys are very little employed on the farms, a few occasionally for bird-keeping. Girls are not at all employed and women very little. The supply of labour is not always sufficient; I have to employ the Irish. Our lads go off to the works or to Cardiff.

I employ one boy, who lives on the premises.

Wages are 11*s.* and 12*s.* a week and a house and the privilege of buying wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, butter at 1*s.* a lb. (1 lb. per week), and cheese at 6*d.* a lb.

In harvest-time they have meat extra.

A woman gets 1*s.* a day. Turnip-hoeing is done by the piece. The weeding is done by old men and a woman or two.

The hours of work for the teams are from 8 a.m. to 12, and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There is an old custom here of giving a dinner every Wednesday to all the workmen, which I keep up; it is not reckoned in the wages.

Cottages attached to the farms are reckoned at a rent of 1*s.* a week to 3*l.* a year, with good garden to each. They are in bad repair.

ST. HILARY.

29. *Llewellyn Thomas*, farmer.—I employ one boy of 12 years of age.

Irish women are sometimes employed for weeding; but weeding and turnip-hoeing are usually taken by the piece at per acre.

Small children are very seldom employed, occasionally perhaps for bird-keeping; there is not so much use for them with the ploughs as formerly.

Wages for a man here are 13*s.* a week, but they are lower in some parts of this neighbourhood.

I do not think the prohibition of the employment of children under 10 years of age would be any hardship to the parents.

LANMAES.

Population, 144. - Acreage, 1,035.

30. *Rev. T. Parry Thomas.*—This is a small parish. Boys are not often employed under 12 years of age; a few occasionally for bird-keeping when quite young. Girls are not employed in the fields, and very few women.

Wages for a man are 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in winter, and 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in summer. In some cases they have wheat at a fixed price per bushel. The men who work for the farmers can usually get potato ground if they wish it. I do not think that a prohibition of work for children under 10 years of age would inflict any injury on the parents.

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School attendance is irregular from various causes; there is a want of education among the heads of the labourers' families. I think compulsion in the matter of school attendance is more needed in towns than in the rural districts; the mothers would, in my opinion, rebel against such compulsion.

The small rural parishes want more State aid; at present the burden of supporting the school falls mainly on the clergyman. A system of payment for results, independently of the question of the teacher being certificated or not, would I think be most beneficial.

Most of the young men, the best workers, go away to the works in the hills, leaving the old and crippled to supply the labour.

I do not think that half days or alternate days at school and work would succeed. Children if thus kept at school would have their thoughts more on the fields, sheep, horses, and open air than on their lessons; neither do I see the necessity of half measures with young children. The plan of attendance for a certain number of days during the year would be preferable. In some cases children would be kept in school for a longer period if the parents could dispense with the amount earned by the children.

One and a quarter cottage is considered sufficient per 100 acres.

Some of the cottages are sufficiently large for the present occupants, having good walls, glazed windows to each room, floors of lias mortar hard as stone. Bedrooms separated by lath and plaster divisions, warm in winter and cool in summer, owing to the roof being thatched. Water is abundant; moderate sized gardens with very good soil and good natural drainage. The *inferior* cottages contain only one room on ground floor about 15 ft. by 12 ft., with a small lumber room where a bed is occasionally placed; one room over in the roof. The owners are not the landowners, though they own the ground on which the cottages stand. Rent averages 3*l.* 5*s.* a year. Though the *number* of cottages is ample, they are with a few exceptions very far from what they ought to be.

I think this inquiry and the visit of the Commissioner will produce some effect, and probably, if he could repeat and extend his visits to all the villages every two or three years, and not only report to Parliament the result of his inspections but get copies of that report circulated through the county, in less than a dozen years many good cottages would be built and the bad ones would find no tenants. In the absence of something of this kind there should be an enactment to prevent owners of cottages (after a certain date and notice) renting them for occupation by an improper number.

I do not think any of the landowners would avail themselves of the provisions of the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114, as they would hardly think of borrowing money to build cottages.

An evening school has frequently been tried here but with small success; there is not one now. In summer harvest and other operations prevent the attendance of young men and lads, while in winter some are kept away by attendance on horses, &c. Besides this it is rarely young people employed in agriculture during the day can get over the difficulty of applying their minds with any advantage for a few hours at night; their bodies tired, the irksomeness of the school is too much for them, and after the novelty has worn off the school dwindles entirely away.

ST. ATHAN.

Population, 357 Acreage, 1,486.
Cultivation about ¾ arable and ¼ pasture.

31. *Rev. Hanmer Morgan.*—There are in my parish 38 children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture.

Males, two between 8 and 10 years of age; seven between 10 and 13 years, eight between 13 and 18 years.

Females, three between 10 and 13 years of age; one between 13 and 18; over 18 years there are 14 married women and seven unmarried.

The employment of boys and girls in *spring* are crow-keeping, harrowing, ploughing, driving carts, sheep and cows, and incidental work; of women, topping turnips, feeding sheep, and spreading dung.

In *summer,* machinery has superseded the employment of women; they are not now much employed in hay and corn harvest, but in sheep milking.

In *autumn,* boys of 8 years go crow-keeping; other boys drive carts and go ploughing and raising potatoes; women recommence turnip-trimming, raise potatoes, pick stones, and go to the thrashing and winnowing.

In *winter,* boys are ploughing, harrowing, and driving horses; women, thrashing, winnowing, and sheep tending.

The distance to work rarely exceeds half a mile; boys are expected to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; women from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No difference in the hours is made on account of distance from home; 1½ hour is allowed to boys for meals; one hour to women and girls.

There is decidedly no injury to the health; the children employed in out-door labour are quite as healthy as those at school. I never heard of any ill-treatment.

Sheep milking is a very unhealthy employment, as many of my people complain of it as the cause of illness, especially chronic rheumatism. The exposure to all kinds of weather when trimming turnips in autumn and winter is also injurious. These occupations are principally followed by married women.

As to the effect of field employment on females, I find that from the greater liberty they enjoy, there is a great unwillingness on the part of girls and unmarried women to enter domestic service. They lose in a great measure the gentler attributes of their sex, are devoid of modesty in consequence of their intercourse with men, and a large proportion become mothers of illegitimate children. To the married the consequences frequently are neglect of home, uneducated children, dirt and discomfort, which too often leads to intemperance on the part of the husband.

Where there is a young and numerous family my opinion is that with labour wages at 12*s.* a week a man would have almost insuperable difficulty in maintaining it without assistance from his wife. The demand for young girls of 12 years and upwards is so great for domestic service and so unnecessary in the field, that it is very desirable, taking into consideration the evil effect on their morals, that they should not be employed in such labour. I would prohibit the employment of females under 20 years of age, and I am not prepared to except hay and corn harvest.

Boys should not be employed under 12 years of age, unless permission were given by magistrates in petty sessions to necessitous parents of large families.

With reference to the proposed table of distances, I think that no girls should be taken to work at all, that boys under 12 years should not be employed, and that from 12 to 14 years the distance should not exceed two miles.

Boys under 14 years of age should not be permitted to work after 5 p.m., or at the latest 6 p.m., as they are only employed as a rule in the lowest operations of agriculture, such as crow-keeping, potato-picking, and horse driving, and they would thus be enabled to attend night schools.

Several of the boys are unemployed in the winter, they could therefore attend school in those months. I believe the shortening of the hours in the evening would not materially affect the work of the farm, and would give them an opportunity of educational improvement.

The cottage accommodation is of a very wretched description; the rooms are small and without ventilation, the children consequently are frequent sufferers from epidemic disease. In the smaller ones such a thing as comfort cannot exist, and to this I attribute the prevalence of drunkenness among the people.

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Glamorganshire.

Mr. Portman.

m.

There are 36 cottages now occupied by agricultural labourers, giving an average of 2½ to every 100 acres. This number is deemed sufficient.

The cottages are very much crowded; they generally consist of two rooms about 12 or 13 ft. square, the lower floor formed of lime; the upper room walls about 2 ft. high, whence a thatched roof springs, which is usually unceiled. There are frequently no means of ventilation and none of drainage. There are 2¼ persons on an average to every room, including dwelling rooms, and 4½ *to every sleeping room.* There are occasionally lean-to sheds for coal and tools. Gardens are usually of from 20 to 30 poles in size.

Eleven cottages in this village have only one room for all purposes.

The cottages are either held by the landowner or let on leases for lives; none are owned by tradesmen with whom the tenants are obliged to deal.

Rent averages 3*l.* a year.

No progress towards improving cottage accommodation is being made, except when a fire fortunately occurs, in which case the cottages are rebuilt on a scale consistent with the requirements of the tenants. The difficulty consists in inducing the owners to make a present sacrifice.

SCHOOL.

——	On Books.	Average Attendance.
Midsummer :		
Boys and girls - -	44	40
Winter :		
Boys and girls - -	74	55

There is great difficulty in obtaining regular attendance. Knowledge of rudimental learning is therefore not obtained, and where it is so obtained it is frequently lost for want of habitual exercise after leaving school.

There is an evening school in the winter open for three hours on four nights in the week during 13 weeks. There are eight scholars, all above 12 years of age.

The difficulties in maintaining it are the carelessness of the young as to whether they are educated or not, the late hours at which they are occasionally employed, as well as, to a certain extent, the unwillingness of masters and mistresses to allow them to attend school when it may interfere with their work.

32. BRIDGEND AND COWBRIDGE UNION.

MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

October 16th, 1869.

J. C. Nicoll, Esq., in the chair.

It was stated that boys do not usually go to farm service till 12 years of age, but an instance was given of one at 10 years receiving 4*l.* a year, board and lodging. Little boys are employed for bird-keeping at 6*d.* a day and their food.

That girls are not employed in the fields, and that women are employed for weeding corn, turnip-clipping, &c. at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

There was a difference of opinion as to fixing the age for work at 9 or 10 years, but it was thought that such a limit would meet the wants of the agricultural classes, and only in cases of long families of small children inflict any hardship on the parents through the loss of the children's earnings.

Men's wages were stated to be 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week. The cottages are not often attached to the farms, but when so attached are let at 1*s.* a week. The state of the dwellings was not considered satisfactory.

It was stated that with very few exceptions there were schools within reach of the greater part of the agricultural population, *i. e.* within a distance of two to three miles. It was thought that education should be made more available to the poor, and that the removal of the restriction of grants in aid to schools having certificated teachers would give very valuable support to many schools now in existence which are capable of bearing inspection as to results, and which are kept up with some difficulty for want of funds.

It was said that savings banks are much used by the labourers, many of whom become small farmers. Many of the clubs divide at intervals two-thirds of their funds and go on with the remainder.

Complaint was made of the state of the brick-yards; children are employed in them at a very early age, and it was stated that their health and morality suffer much.

NEWCASTLE WITH LALESTON, TYTHEGSTONE AND BETTWS.

[Population, 4,828 - Acreage, 12,458.

33. *Archdeacon Blosse.*—Boys are employed in the farmhouses from 10 years and upwards. Some are employed in the spring for bird-keeping, and in the summer and autumn for singling turnips and for potato-picking. The usual hours of work on the land are eight; 1½ hour is allowed for dinner. There is no injury to the health caused by such employment. Women are so seldom employed here that that I do not think any restriction on their labour necessary.

Boys should not be employed till they are 10 years of age.

The school attendance is not much affected by distance, and the schools are so cheap that it should not be affected by the pecuniary resources of the parents.

Cottage accommodation is not good; too many persons sleep in one room, the sexes often being mixed.

Cottages used by agricultural labourers are small and not good. Those inhabited by colliers and miners are good, but too much crowded. The ownership is not in the landowner. Rent from 2*l.* to 6*l.* a year. In the neighbourhood of the works the rents are as high as 3*s.* a week. Cottage building is a favourite investment of savings, and ground is easily obtained in the villages for the purpose.

There is not much progress towards increasing cottage accommodation for the farm labourers.

There are about 300 children in our day schools.

There is an evening school for four or five months during the winter, open for two hours on two nights a week. There are about 60 scholars; they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. The great difficulty in maintaining a night school is the want of persons to take a share in the teaching.

The farmers are in many instances very uneducated men; their children attend the village schools.

Potato grounds comprising some acres are let by the farmers at 1*s.* a perch. The farmer puts on the manure and prepares the ground, then the labourers who rent it put in the seed. The crop is gathered by men and their families, not at their own convenience, but under a condition that the field is to be cleared by a given day. Children are at that time much employed with their parents for about three weeks.

I was formerly actuary of the savings bank here. I know many instances of labourers being worth 100*l.* and upwards. They will take a farm on a capital of 2*l.* per acre, which affords work for themselves and their families.

34. Cottages in Newcastle.

(1.) One room and backhouse down.
Three bedrooms.
Very small back yard. No garden. Rent, 5*l.* a year.

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(2.) One room down.
One room up.
No garden. Rent, 16*s.* a quarter.
(3.) One room down.
One room up.
No garden. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year.
(4.) One room and back house down.
One bedroom.
No garden or privy. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year. In very bad repair.

35. *Davies*, stock-keeper to Mr. Price, farmer.—The cottage is attached to the farm, and reckoned in rent at 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. It has one room downstairs and two bedrooms. My wages are 18*s.* a week. I get garden stuff from the farm, and butter at a fixed price when there is any to spare. Wages for an ordinary labourer are 15*s.* a week.

[Some cottages the property of a labouring man who built them out of his savings on land formerly cribbed from the waste but bought by him were very good. They had two rooms and a back place downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, a small garden. Rent, 10*s.* a month.—E. B. P.]

BETTWS.

The School.

36. *Miss Morgan*, mistress, uncertificated.
Number on the books, 70.
Average attendance for year, 40.
In attendance on 21st October, 58.

The oldest girl or boy in the school is 14 years of age. Some children come from a distance of three miles.

The attendance is irregular at the time of potato-setting in the spring, and when the crop is being gathered in the autumn; the children then work for their parents and not for farmers, and are employed at a very early age. Stone-picking is done by boys and girls for farmers at 8*d.* a day.

Women very seldom work in the fields, except at haytime and harvest; when they are employed they get 1*s.* a day. Wages for a man are 2*s.* a day and food; they work long hours. Boys in service under 12 years old get their food, but seldom any money; over 12 years they get 3*l.* and 4*l.* a year, and board and lodging. Service is taken for six months, from May to November. Boys come back to school sometimes for the winter months.

I find that boys forget their learning more than the girls when they are away from school. The boys have very little instruction given them in the farmhouses.

The farms are mostly small. Many of the labourers have a field or two and keep a cow.

The rent of a cottage and garden varies from 3*l.* with two rooms only) to 4*l.* 10*s.* a year, and rates.

[This parish or hamlet is on the edge of the hills, thinly populated, and comprising a large district of sheep runs. Very little labour is employed by the farmers, who for the most part cultivate their small holdings by themselves and their children, with, perhaps, one or two boys living in service in their houses.—E. B. P.]

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37. *Letter from Rev. C. R. Knight, rural dean, and vicar of St. Bride Major.*

Tythegston Court, Bridgend,
October 28, 1869.

"My dear Sir,

"I have been endeavouring to fill in answers to the queries you were good enough to send me on the 18th instant, but I find I cannot do so with sufficient accuracy or fullness for any statistical purposes.

"I can only offer you the general opinion I have formed, that the practice does not prevail to any injurious extent in this part of the country of employing children at a very early age, or for too many hours in the day, or from too great a distance, so that legislation is not loudly called for on physical grounds. At the same time there is a good deal of occasional work going on at various times of the year, in which the moderate employment of children under 10 adds very much to the resources of the family, and the temptation is no doubt great to the parents to keep them away from school at such times, and thus to prevent all progress in their education.

"I cannot but think that an enactment requiring the parent or guardian of every child under 10 to produce to some authority a certificate of, say * 300 attendances (each whole day counting two) at some school, at the end of every six months would be desirable, and could not meet with much opposition.

"I think the accommodation in the cottages and in the smaller farmhouses is as a rule insufficient; the sexes are often not divided, and the ventilation is bad, but I see no remedy for this as long as the building of cottages is the favourite investment of the savings of the Welsh labouring classes.

"Yours very truly,
"Charles R. Knight."

COYCHURCH.

38. *Rev. C. H. Lewellin*, rector.—The usual age of children going to work in my parish is, for boys, 13 years, and they always live with the farmers. With the exception of harvest time, women rarely do any agricultural work but pulling their own potatoes. I do not think any restriction on the employment of females is needed, the evil where it exists will I think work its own cure. Boys should certainly not be allowed to work under 12 years of age.

I do not think that the principles of the Factory Acts would answer for agricultural employment. My experience is that a boy loses in a day more than he learns in a week. Attendance at school should be continuous to be efficacious. The great evil here in regard to non-attendance proceeds from the parents; from local circumstances the children are kept away for a couple of days a week to fetch coal on donkies. This is a greater bar to education than agricultural labour.

In rural districts it is impossible to have the distance as short as one would wish. I believe one good school, with a distance of two miles on each side, better than multiplying small and necessarily inferior schools.

School payments should be 3*d.*, 2*d.*, and 1*d.*

Hedge schools charging 3*d.* a week are better attended than those charging 1*d.* There is no industrial training for girls except sewing.

There is ample house room for the accommodation of the labourers. The cottages generally have two rooms downstairs, they have a little land for a garden. Many belong to the labourers themselves, and most belong to small owners. Rent varies from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* a year.

I have labourers earning 14*s.* a week who keep cows and rent land; they are to be distinguished from small farmers, as they all work for masters. One who has two cows and a heifer works on the railway.

I do not think that cottage property, such as would be really necessary for the comfort of the poor, will ever prove remunerative.

In Summer.

—	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	50	45
Between 10 and 13 -	30	20
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	45	40
Between 10 and 13 -	30	20

* The 300 attendances are for the *whole* year, but the certificate is to be produced half-yearly.

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Glamorganshire

Mr. Portman.

m.

In Winter.

——	On Register.	In average. Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	70	60
Between 10 and 13 -	35	30
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	60	45
Between 10 and 13 -	32	25

There was a night school last winter for the first time, open for 20 weeks for two hours on three nights a week. Out of 20 on the register the average attendance was 12. The attendance was irregular.

GOWER.

39. *T. Penrice, Esq.*, Kilvrough, Chairman of Gower Board of Guardians.

The workhouse has very few inmates, there has not been an able-bodied man in it since it was opened.

The difference between the labourer and the farmer in Gower is very slight. A purely labouring class hardly exists; the old class had a small piece of land with their houses.

The people are well clothed with flannel. The cottagers usually keep pigs. There is a considerable addition to their earnings from oyster dredging and quarrying. A quarryman earns from 3*s.* a day to 1*l.* a week.

The cottages are not good; too many of them have only one bedroom. I am getting cottages with quarter acre of land, which I let at 3*l.* a year.

I see no objection to placing restrictions on the employment of children under 10 years of age with a view to improve their education; there might be some difficulty in carrying out any such scheme.

40. *John Clark*, farmer, Penard.—I farm from 300 to 400 acres. I employ a boy of 10 years of age all the year, who lives in my house; his pay, in addition to board and lodging, would begin at 6*d.* a week, and be advanced at the rate of 1*l.* a year. Young boys are employed for bird-keeping at 6*d.* a day; their hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Boys of 12 or 14 years of age are used for singling turnips.

Women weed corn at 1*s.* a day.

Men's wages are 12*s.* a week. I have one cottage attached to my farm for the man who looks after the stock, which he inhabits rent-free.

Boys of 17 and 18 years of age living in the farm-house get 15*l.* and 16*l.* a year, with board and lodging. They can go to night school if they wish, but I do not make a practice of compelling them to do so. I furnish them with books so that they may keep up their education at home.

The district is far better supplied with schools than it was 20 years ago, and I think there is ample means of education for the farmer class; there is a very good school at Bishopton, to which I would send my children. I do not think legislation as to the age at which children should be employed would affect this district; many people now will not send their young children out. Some of the labourers save money in order to get a bit of land to grow vegetable stuff.

41. *Mr. W. Beynon*, farmer, Penard.—I hold about 120 acres. I do not employ labourers; my children do most of the farm work. I keep one man servant, 24 years of age, who lives in my house and receives 15*l.* a year besides board and lodging. He came from Devonshire.

I keep my children at school as regularly as I can till 12 or 13 years of age; by that time they get education enough for *farming*, though perhaps for any *business* they might want more.

I let a little potato ground to the quarrymen at about 2*l.* per acre.

I sometimes employ a woman for pulling turnips at per drill.

I prefer having servants in the house to employing day labourers, they are more at call when wanted.

I have always lived in Gower. The state of education in the district is better than formerly.

42. *Henry Evans*, farmer, Green Lane, Penard.—I hold 50 acres and employ my own children on the land; the only extra labour I require is in harvest.

I do not think the earnings of a child under 10 years are worth anything to the labourer; there is not much need now of such boys on the farms, as they are not wanted to drive oxen as formerly.

All my children go to the village school. I think children get more education now than formerly; some parents are heedless about it. Some of the old people cannot read or write.

There is sufficient means of education for the middle class.

Many of the labourers have a small piece of land and keep a cow or two. Women work in the fields, and girls too sometimes for stone-picking, but as a rule they work with their families and don't go out for hire. My girls go hauling turnips and getting up potatoes.

PENRICE AND NICHOLASTONE.

Population, 416 - Acreage, 2,829.

Cultivation mixed.

43. *Mr. John Barron*, agent to C. Mansel Talbot, Esq., M.P.—The youngest boys I employ are from 10 to 12 years old. Girls are not employed on the farms, nor as a rule are women so employed except a little in summer. The average distance to work is one mile, and the hours are ten.

I would place the limit for boys' work at 12 years.

There are schools provided by Mr. Talbot, and I think the children do take advantage of them. The cottages are good, in sufficient number, and conveniently situated; they are not overcrowded, and all have good gardens.

Cottage (No. 1). One room and back house down-stairs, two bedrooms; garden and paddock. Rent 3*l.* 10*s.* a year and rates.

" (No. 2). Two rooms and back house down-stairs, two bedrooms. Rent with garden 4*l.* a year.

[They are fairly good and tidily kept.—E. B. P.]

Wages for men are 10*s.* a week; at contract work they can earn 15*s.* a week; for women, if employed, 1*s.* a day.

Most of the men keep a cow and a pig with a run on the common or a bit of land; or sometimes both. The labourers save money.

In the western part of Gower there are a number of small farmers not employing any labour but working the land themselves with the help of their families. There are many sheep running on the mountains, the right of run being attached to the farms.

There is a sufficient number of schools, say one for two or three parishes, and within reasonable distance of the dwellings of the labourers. I do not think there is any dearth of the means of education for the farmer class.

VALE OF NEATH.

44. *Mr. Glass*, sub-agent of the Gnoll Estate, Neath.—The farms in this district are as a rule small; there is one on the Gnoll estate of 1,000 acres held by Mr. Paramore.

Children are not employed in agriculture under 14 years of age; the small ones go to the tin and other works. Farmers' children are used on the mountain runs to look after sheep, &c.; these runs let at 1*s.* and 2*s.* an acre.

Women are employed on the large farms for turnip-pulling from the age of 14 years up to 40; there may be on Mr. Paramore's farm 8 or 10 girls of ages varying from 14 to 18 *now* employed in the turnip fields;

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they earn 1*s.* a day, and work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner.

Men's wages are 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week with sometimes a house rent-free in addition. Single men living in the farmhouses are hired in the fair at Neath for six months; women servants are also hired at these fairs. The hiring takes place in open street. These men are hired by the smaller farmers, who have one or two in the house. The larger farmers do not usually keep men in the house, but have cottages attached to their farms where the married carters live.

On the hills there are many 50 acre farms with a run attached, where no labourers are employed.

Legislation as to the age for employment of children would hardly affect this district. I do not think that a prohibition of work before a certain age would have the effect of bringing the children to school; it has not that effect in the works. Farmers would not appreciate a certificate of school attendance, or care to demand it when the lads came to be hired. Register offices for servants are not kept here.

Farmers send their children to the same school as the labourers; the children leave school at 12 years of age to help on their parents' farms. Many of the sheep-farms are two to four miles distant from a school; there are very few shepherds living on the runs. The distance to work is not great, nor is there any injury to health caused by agricultural work.

Cottages on the Gnoll estate are in good order. In some there is only one bedroom, but generally there are two in each, and a garden is always attached. The rent of those attached to the farms is on the average 1*s.* a week; a few are let at 1*s.* 6*d.*

There is a reformatory school in Neath, from which boys go out "in companies" under the care of a superintendent to work for the farmers, weeding and in the turnip-fields; they earn 9*d.* to 1*s.* a head, and their labour is in demand.

45. *Mr. James Long*, farmer, Ynysarwed.—I hold 1,000 acres, part hill and part vale. I employ one boy of 9 years of age to lead a horse at plough. Boys are generally employed from 9 to 12 years of age. Girls are seldom employed on the farms.

Women are employed at 1*s.* a day and their food. The hours of work are about eight for women and 10 for men and boys.

I think boys should not be employed in farm work under 12 years of age except in harvest.

Wages for men are 15*s.* a week, for women 1*s.* a day, for children 4*s.* a week. Lads of 19 years and upwards living in the farmhouse earn 17*l.* to 20*l.* a year. I incline to having all men necessary for the operations of the farm living in the house, for the sake of economy in the matter of food. I have brought several men from Somersetshire. *A Welsh woman works as well as many Somerset men.*

Advantage is not taken of the schools. I do not think that early labour is the hindrance but rather neglect on the part of the parents, who are themselves uneducated, and do not care sufficiently for the welfare of their children. I find educated labourers the most useful; for instance, I have only one who is a scholar, a lad about 16 years old with only one leg, but he is of more service to me than those who have the advantage of him in bodily soundness.

The cottages are very bad, in many instances overcrowded with lodgers to help out the rent; the ventilation is bad and the gardens not very good. Rent is 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a week.

RESOLVEN, GLYNCORWG, AND GLYN NEATH.

Population, about 2,000 - Acreage, 20,000.

46. *Rev. D. Griffiths*, vicar.—This district is partly agricultural and partly mineral. There are three schools, and I have a certificated master at Resolven and at Glyncorwg.

There is no employment of children in the fields. Women are not *regularly* employed.

There are large tracts of sheep run on the hills, and many small farmers who make money by using their carts for hauling at the coal pits.

The labouring class is well off; an agricultural labourer gets 16*s.* a week.

The regulation in the coal pits requiring the production of a certificate of reading, &c. before hiring is working well, and I think it would answer as well for the farm labourer. The Welsh are beginning to appreciate education, and are anxious to secure good teachers for the schools. Farmers' children leave school at an earlier age than those of the labourer. There are many scattered dwellings on the hills, far removed from a school.

I am in favour of grants in aid being given to schools for results, putting aside the question of the teacher being certificated or otherwise; and I think such an alteration of the regulations of the Committee of Council would be beneficial to rural parishes.

In Resolven the school attendance is pretty regular, some pressure being used, as the parish is in the hands of one landlord.

The cottages are pretty good; most of them have two rooms downstairs and two bedrooms, and a good garden. The rent of these is 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are some old ones at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. They are not as a rule attached to the farms.

LANTWITT MAJOR.

Population, 1,223 - Acreage, 4,915.

47. *Mr. John Garsed*, occupier.—I employ one boy under 8 years of age, two between 8 and 10 years, and two between 13 and 18 years, no girls, but six married women, who are employed in spring in weeding and stone-picking; in summer in "couching" and hay-making; in winter in pulling turnips, and one or two of them in barn work. The distance to work is 1 to 1½ miles. Women work from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 or 6 p.m. with 1½ hours allowed for dinner. One hour would be required for walking to and from work. Turnip cleaning is injurious to delicate children and married women from exposure to inclement weather. Young girls up to 20 years should not be allowed to work in agriculture, as they become totally unfitted for household work and to be mothers of families. Their morals are decidedly lowered in tone by such labour.

There is no need of restriction on the hours of work for children and young persons, as in consequence of high wages the labourers are more independent than in most other districts.

If there is no school in their parish few, if any, of the children of the labouring class go to another parish. The school attendance is considerably affected by the poverty of the parents, the women from want of household education being as a rule bad managers, and thus whatever the amount of wages earned they are always needy. Bad cottages are a curse to a district; they render the households badly managed, drive the husband to the public house, and lower the moral tone of the whole family. The absence of privies is a great evil in this district.

Two cottages for 100 acres are sufficient; we have more than that proportion. Some cottages have one small room downstairs, and one upstairs unceiled, others have two rooms down and two bedrooms. Ventilation is indifferent, and the drainage is bad. Many are owned by tradesmen and persons having no landed property in the neighbourhood. All have a good garden attached. Rent varies from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a week.

Landlords might provide cottage accommodation on the farms, and charge the tenant a per-centage on the outlay; any tenant would gladly pay it, as the workman would be located where he was wanted, and the employer would pay less wages for horse keepers, &c. than when they have a mile or two to walk home every night.

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Glamorganshire.

Mr. Portman.

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48. EXTRACT from LETTER from the above.

* * * "With regard to the state of education. 1st, we want industrial and domestic training for girls to enable them to fulfil properly their duties as wives and mothers. 2nd, boys should before being employed produce a certificate from a properly authorized schoolmaster, that such boy has received a certain number of hours' instruction during the preceding six months; a penalty should be imposed upon the employer of any boy who could not produce such certificate, for I would punish the tempter not the tempted.

"I hold that the owners and occupiers of land, and all other classes are bound to provide cheap elementary education for the working classes; this would be done by local rate, and if the poor require anything beyond that, in order to raise their children in the social scale, they ought to pay for it as a luxury.

"It is highly desirable in this district that education should be undenominational, for at least three-fourths of our fellow parishioners are dissenters, and a Church of England school will not be successful even under strong compulsion. These views are the result of many years' experience in this parish, in establishing and supporting Church of England, National, and other class schools."

Breconshire.

BRECONSHIRE.

BRECON UNION.

49. *D. W. Thomas, Esq.*, union clerk.—Children are not employed in farm work. The board of guardians expects boys at 12 years of age and girls at 15 to earn something for their own maintenance.

Farmers have a boy or two of 12 years and upwards in their houses. They take them from the workhouse at that age, and give them food but no wages.

Women are employed on the farms for stone-picking. They do not often work, but the farmers would be glad to get them at 1*s.* a day.

The highest wages for an ordinary labourer are 15*s.* a week. A waggoner living in the farmhouse gets from 15*l.* to 18*l.* a year with board and lodging.

Schools are fairly numerous in the neighbourhood of Brecon; most of the villages have one, but in the hills the shepherds and farmers never send their children to school on account of the distance from their homes. Relief is withdrawn from widows if the children are not sent to the school after due warning and on the report of the relieving officer.

Since the passing of the Union Chargeability Act farmers are desirous of having more cottages on their farms, but in the matter of education many think that the labourer is now "quite high enough up."

50. *W. Probert*, relieving officer.—I was once a farmer. My district is all agricultural, with the exception of the town of Brecon. The farms near Brecon vary in size from 50 acres up to 300 and 400 acres. There are sheep runs on the hills belonging to the valley farms. The run is not a defined tract of land belonging to each farmer, but a right of run for so many sheep on common land.

Boys of 10 years old are used with the cattle. They live in the farmhouses and get board and lodging, and either clothes or 2*l.* a year. Girls are not employed in outdoor work on the farms except at hay and harvest. Women work at potatoeing, turnip topping, &c. Some are employed all the year round.

Wages for an ordinary labourer are 12*s.* a week; they used to be 10*s.*, but have been raised on account of the demand for labour at the works.

A woman will earn 1*s.* a day, or 6*d.* and meals.

The north side of Brecon is well supplied with schools. I was formerly manager of a British school, and am sure that the people are now more careful about their children's education than formerly. The children used to leave school at 10 or 11 years of age. Night schools have not been successful.

I think 10 years would be a good limit to fix for the employment of children. Children would be sent to school if the parents could afford it, but in cases of large families I do not think they can afford it. Still the loss of earnings in consequence of a prohibition of work before 10 years would, in my opinion, be very trifling. There are some outlying places too far distant from the school to admit of a child's attendance, especially in the hills.

The cottages have of late been improved. Some few have only one bedroom, but the greater number have two. All have gardens. The rent varies according to the size of the garden and the condition of the building, and ranges from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year.

I do not think the labourers save much money.

51. *J. Lloyd, Esq.*, Dinas, near Brecon, owner and occupier.—The cultivation is chiefly arable. Near the mountains some few farms are entirely pastoral.

Boys are employed from 8 years upwards, *i.e.*, as soon as they are old enough to watch the cattle or disturb the crows; the latter they do in the spring and autumn, the former in the summer. This occupies but a small portion of their number. After 10 years of age they get hired by the small farmers, and have constant employment.

I only employ two girls on my farm of 500 acres; they are about 12 years of age; they work in the same occupation as their mothers, and nearly always in their company; the employment of girls is not common in this district.

Women are employed on an average about four months in the year, and would like to be employed more, in hoeing and dressing turnips, harvesting hay and corn, and in a few instances in tending cattle in the farm yards in the winter months.

The distance from work is from ½ mile to 1½ mile, scarcely ever more. On my farm the hours of work are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., in harvest time occasionally till 7 or 8 p.m.; they only work the latter time for, say, 10 days in the year, and on those occasions they have beer. On some farms work is commenced at 8 a.m.

I do not think it desirable to place any restriction on the employment of boys or of females.

The children in my neighbourhood have ample means of education, and very generally avail themselves of them; there is no cause, except early labour, to prevent their attendance.

The cottages in my parish and neighbourhood are good and sufficient for the supply of labour, are conveniently placed, and well supplied with water and means of ventilation. I know of no instance of immorality attributable to overcrowding. Nearly all of them have gardens; the occupiers of the very few that have them not are, in my case, allowed to plant potatoes in the field. I am not aware of any occupiers of cottages who have allotments of land other than gardens, in this district, and in my opinion such allotments are not desirable.

Wages for men are 12*s.* a week, and sometimes a cottage rent free; for women 8*d.* a day.

The sheep-run districts are very thinly populated.

PENPONT.

Population, 156 - Acreage, 1,355.

52. *Penry Williams, Esq.*, owner.—Cultivation chiefly grazing and meadow land, with some small quantity of tillage. Boys are employed at about 13 years old; they are hired in May and November. There are about seven girls employed on the farms, chiefly for milking and housework, their ages varying from 14 to 22 years.

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It is difficult to say to what extent women are employed; the wife of a labourer, if without children, would be employed to assist in dairy-work, &c.

Boys and girls live in the farmhouses. The hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in winter. Boys should not commence work before 13 years of age. No restriction is necessary on the employment of females; they are not overworked.

There is a school in the neighbouring parish, to which the children of Penpont go; nearly all the labourers and handicraftsmen send their children there.

The cottages are generally good, and I do not know of any cases of immorality in consequence of overcrowding; they all have gardens.

The hamlet of Penpont maintains its own poor separately. It is one of the hamlets which formerly constituted the parish of Llanspythidd, and by multiplying the number of girls returned by me as employed here by five you will arrive at a proximate estimate of the girls employed in each of the other hamlets.

ABERCAMLAIS, near BRECON.

53. The Rev. Garnons Williams to Hon. E. Portman.

"SIR, 5th November 1869.

"I HAVE not answered categorically the questions contained in the forms you sent me, because the land within my incumbency is exceptionally placed. It belongs for the most part to two estates, the proprietors of which reside on their property. Much is laid down in grass and wood, which under other circumstances would be divided into ordinary farms, and most of the cottages are better and less overcrowded than elsewhere. Perhaps you will, therefore, accept from me instead a general statement as regards the neighbourhood of Brecon on the subject you especially desire to be informed upon.

"There is, as I believe, no pressing call for legislation in favour of children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture in this particular neighbourhood. The system of gangs, either public or private, does not exist here, nor are women to any great extent permanently employed in hard work in the fields; still, as legislation is certainly needed much in other places in this matter, it would be very desirable that women and children, even here, should be protected from the possible oppression of individual farmers.

"The farms in this neighbourhood are for the most part small, and the farmhouse itself contains not unfrequently all who regularly work upon the farm. Women and boys engaged as farm servants, specially so engaged, work often in the fields. In winter they are employed in raising turnips and tending cattle; in spring, in gathering stones from arable and pasture lands; in summer and autumn, in hay and corn harvest, in potato gathering, &c. Women and boys not living in the farmhouses are occasionally employed in outdoor work when there is a pressure, and in oak barking in the barking season, while on the other hand the inmates of the farmhouse often vary their field employment with housework.

"The hours of work for those employed in the fields are, in summer, from 8 to 6, in winter from light to dusk. Boys are not, as a rule, employed till about 12 years of age. When women are employed in field work it usually is not from necessity but choice, because they prefer it to charing, washing, &c.

"This is a thinly populated neighbourhood, on the hills on either side of the valley in which I live, there are wide commons, houses are few and far between; many of the cottages are bad and overcrowded; I doubt not that this tends to immorality, and indeed many of the farmhouses, especially in the hilly districts, have not sufficient accommodation for decency.

"The hiring or mop fairs are a fruitful source of evil; as a rule all farm servants are hired at these fairs, even if the servants intend to keep their places they go to the fair and are hired afresh; I believe these fairs have a very demoralizing effect in many ways, and it would be a great benefit to the country if they could be abolished.

"With regard to primary education; while during the last 10 years many excellent schools have been established, many more are wanted. My conviction is that the present system of education should be enlarged or rather modified so as to embrace all cases. The system of paying by results might with good effect be extended. Schools in country places where the population is small, and where there are few resident gentry, might be exceptionally dealt with. For any sweeping change to be made with regard to the education of the poor would retard its progress for a considerable period. Compulsory education and compulsory local rates for education would, besides being unpopular, damp zeal and energy, and put an end to all voluntary efforts which are the heartiest and the best. To place the education of the country in the hands of the guardians of the poor, or of any other local board of ratepayers, or their representatives, would inevitably in many country places tend to contract and not to enlarge the bounds of education. The minimum of cost and the minimum of knowledge would be the great desiderata, and they would probably be attained.

"There is no industrial school, I am sorry to say, in this neighbourhood. An effort has been made to obtain one for the pauper children of the two unions of Brecon and Crickhowell, but it has failed.

"From observations made in this neighbourhood I do not feel myself in a position to make any more particular remarks, either upon the present state of children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture, or upon the proposed legislation on their behalf. I trust that whatever protective legislation is determined upon, may, if only incidentally, benefit those who live in this secluded district.

"I am, &c.

GARNONS WILLIAMS."

DEVYNOCK.

Population, 1,798 - Acreage, 28,884.
Including extensive mountains.

54. *Rev. David Parry*, vicar.—The majority of labourers are farm servants living in their masters' houses, and for them there is no special hours. There is no injury done to the health by employment on the farms. I do not think there is any necessity for placing a restriction on the employment of females or of boys in farmwork.

I think attendance at school, if enforced at all, should be made compulsory for a certain period during the winter months, when children in a great measure are altogether unemployed. During the summer months they are usually more occupied.

School attendance is not much affected by distance, except in wet and stormy weather, and very little so by the pecuniary resources of the parents, because of the free education given to the children of the poorer class here by virtue of an endowment.

There is no industrial training for girls, except teaching sewing.

SCHOOL.

In Summer.

—	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - - -	45	40
Between 10 and 13 -	15	10
Girls:		
Under 10 - - -	40	38
Between 10 and 13 -	10	7

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Breconshire.

Mr. Portman.

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In Winter.

—	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - - -	60	50
Between 10 and 13 -	30	25
Girls:		
Under 10 - - -	55	50
Between 10 and 13 -	25	15

Almost all the poorest people in this neighbourhood are able to read and write.

55. *Mr. Smith*, relieving officer, Devynock District.—Boys are not employed in farmwork under 10 years of age, and then they go to permanent service. They are not much used for bird-keeping. Girls go out nursing about 10 years of age, but are not employed in the fields till 12 or 13 years, when they are used for stone-picking and weeding corn.

Women are used on farms near the villages for stone-picking, and are paid per cart load; they are also employed in getting up potatoes at 6*d.* a day and their food.

It is a custom to give a row or two of potatoes as payment for harvest work.

The population in the hills is very thin; there are a few shepherds' houses here and there.

There are schools in every parish, but they are not well attended. The small farmers are less educated than the labourers, as they are too poor to dispense with the labour of their children on the farms.

Relief is reduced when a child is 10 years old, *if it is strong*. I do not think that any hardship would be inflicted on the parents by a prohibition of work before 10 years of age.

Cottages all have gardens; most of them have two bedrooms, but they are not very good.

Wages for a man living at home are 5*s.* and 6*s.* a week, and board at the farmer's house.

There is not much out-door labour employed in my district; the work is done as much as possible by servants living in the farmhouses.

There are hiring fairs at Brecon and Trecastle in November and May; the hiring is chiefly by the year. Lads and girls stand in the open air to be hired. If not hired on the first day they go home and can return the next day or on any following Saturday. I have not observed much evil resulting from these fairs.

LLYWELL, near TRECASTLE.

Population, 1,503 - Acreage, 20,800.

56. *Rev. Lewis Price*, vicar.—The farmers of this district and parish being chiefly small tenant farmers do not employ labourers but occasionally, as they are able by the assistance of their children and in some cases by that of a manservant and female servants to do the work necessary to be done on their farms during the season.

School attendance is affected by distance in bad weather. The school payment is only 1*d.* a week for each child. There is no industrial training for girls except needlework at the schools.

This parish is well supplied with cottages, in fact more than sufficiently supplied, as a great many labourers are obliged to leave the place in winter and summer in search of employment. The rent is from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year.

LLANGORSE DISTRICT.

57. *Mr. Price*, relieving officer.—I have been 8 years in office. Children are not employed in farmwork in my district under 10 years of age, and not permanently till 12 years. Small boys may sometimes be employed in the mornings and evenings to fetch cows and ewes for milking, and they attend school in the middle of the day. For this work they get 6*d.* a week, and breakfast and supper every day.

Girls are not employed in the fields; women are difficult to get; they are averse to field-work; those who go get 6*d.* a day and food, or 10*d.* to 1*s.* and no food.

My district is purely agricultural; it is very thinly populated, and labour is scarce. The farms vary in size from 50 to 300 acres.

In some parts of the district schools are few and far between, often as much as three miles from the dwellings, but they are well attended. The small farmers are the worst educated class. The labourers are beginning to care more for education. There are no night schools.

The cottages are generally good, but *rather scarce*. They mostly have two rooms down and two up stairs; most of them have gardens. Those attached to the farms are in the worst state of repair. New cottages are being built by persons investing their money in them.

Wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and a house free, or 12*s.* a week and pay rent, or 7*s.* and 8*s.* a week and board in farmhouse while living at home. Lads live in the farmhouses. Labourers in regular employ of a farmer frequently have so many yards of potato ground free; milk also is given to them when there is a family. There is plenty of milk to be had from the farmers if it is wanted.

Hedging, draining, turnip hoeing are taken by the piece by men. Stone picking is taken by the women at per load, and the children go with them to that work. Sheep milking is done by women, they are paid by the week, and have two meals a day.

Old men go out bird-keeping.

I have not known any cases of injury to health arising from ordinary field work. The distances to work are not great.

I know some labourers who have saved money, and are now small farmers.

LLANDETTY.

Population, 633 - Acreage, 5,980.

Cultivation, as a rule, mixed. Some farms, however, are chiefly arable, and others chiefly pasture.

58. *David Downes, Esq.*, occupier, Maesmawr.—I hire one or two boys by the year, who reside in the house with me, and are generally of the age of 14 or thereabouts. I believe a similar custom prevails throughout this parish. An occasional child (boy or girl) is employed to keep the crows off the corn fields during autumn and spring for a fortnight or three weeks.

The employment of girls both on this farm and in this parish is an exceptional case. If so employed it would be during hay and corn harvest. The instances are rare, and in these instances the ages would vary from 12 to 20 years.

It is difficult to obtain the services of women; when employed, it would be during hay and corn harvest, in topping and tailing turnips, gathering stones off the clover, and in spreading manure in the turnip drills. The distance to work would not exceed one mile on this farm, and 1½ miles in the parish would be a rare instance. The hours, as a general rule, are from 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. I would not place any restriction on the employment of boys. A boy would be of little use to me till he had attained his 12th year; and speaking from observation in this county I would decidedly not place any restriction on the employment of females.

Wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and house rent free, food for a month in harvest, potatoes from one-half to one sack, planted free of cost; they keep poultry and a pig. I reckon it is equal to 14*s.* a week through the year. Women get 1*s.* a day in harvest; they take topping turnips by the job, at 4*d.* a cart load; they usually earn 1*s.* a day at it, but I have known an instance of a woman earning 2*s.* 6*d.* in a

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day; they come to work about 10 a.m, and go or return at what hour they please. Labour is rather scarce. I do not think the labourers save much. There are hiring fairs at Brecon, Hay, Builth, and Crickhowell in May and November. The hiring is by the year or six months; some sign an agreement. I should prefer the fairs being done away with, and a character given to the servants from their former places. Register offices might be substituted for the present system. The ironworks in the neighbourhood keep the surplus labour employed, and there is no man or boy out of employ here.

There is an excellent mixed National school, which is well and regularly attended. Last quarter there were 99 on the books. The Government grant this year was 59*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The small farmers want education for their children more than the labourers; they are too poor to employ labour, and keep their children at home to work on the farm. I think on this point the attention of the Government and some form of compulsion is needed. The children go to school in the winter.

The best lads from the school go away to some employment higher than that of an agricultural labourer.

The cottages are, on the whole, in fair condition, though frequently there is not sufficient sleeping accommodation. There might be a few more on some farms with benefit to the tenant. As a general rule each cottage has a plot of ground (large or small) attached to it; potato ground to the extent of one-eighth of an acre is frequently given in addition, rarely more than that, but frequently much less. A double cottage costs 120*l.* Stone is abundant. Rent of a cottage without a garden is 3*l.* a year; with a garden, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year.

There are sheep-runs on the hills, for the most part belonging to small farmers.

CWMDÛ.

Population, 5,384 - Acreage, 33,798.

There is a great tract of hill-top and sheep-run.

59. *Mr. Thomas Francis,* farmer and guardian.—The population is scattered. I hold 378 acres, and employ more labour than anyone else in the parish. I have two men living on the premises, and the rest of the labour is obtained from the village. Boys are not, as a rule, employed before 13 years of age; they are only very occasionally used for bird-keeping. Girls are not employed on the farms. A few women are employed for topping turnips and stone-picking at 6*d.* a load, also for weeding corn by the day at 1*s.* a day.

A man in constant employ gets 13*s.* a week, and two to four pints of cider a day; those living in the house get 15*l.* a year and board. I have one boy 16 years old, who only gets 6*l.* a year, but he is a weak lad; if strong he would be worth 12*l.* to 15*l.* a year.

The labourers live close to their work. The hours for women working by the day are from 8 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner; those who work by the piece come at 9 or 10 a.m. and go away at their own time.

I do not think it is necessary in this district to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be employed, but if it were placed at 10 years I do not see that any injury would be done to the parents in the matter of earnings.

There is a church school here, where the payment for labourers' children is 1*d.* a week, for those of farmers 5*s.* a quarter. There is a sum of 30*l.* a year bequeathed to the school. The district is fairly supplied with schools; I do not think the furthest distance for a child would be more than a mile. There is a school at Wainvach between this place and Talgarth, and many of the *bigger* children from the lower part of the village go to Crickhowell school, about two miles distant. The attendance is fairly regular. There is no night school, but we have a singing club in the village which occupies the young men in the evening.

The cottages are good. All have two bedrooms, some have three. They are not overcrowded, and are in sufficient number for the farms. I have some attached to my farm. Rent is from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a year. All have good gardens. The regular workmen have leave to plant a sack of potatoes *free* in the farmer's field.

The small farmers cannot afford to send their children to school; they want their labour on the farms in winter as much as in summer, and they cannot spare money to pay for hired labour. Their houses are often far worse than a labourer's cottage. I have known some of these men begin a 50 acre farm with a capital of 50*l.*

LLANGENNY.

60. *Martyn Roberts, Esq.,* owner and occupier.—Cultivation is partly arable and partly grass, and a large quantity of mountain common sheep pasture.

Children are sometimes employed in scaring crows. Young persons generally live at the farms as servants. Girls are only employed as resident farm servants.

A few women are employed for weeding corn and digging potatoes. The distance to work does not often exceed one mile. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, then from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., except on Saturdays, when they leave at 5 p.m.

There are very few boys employed, and I have never seen any necessity for a restriction on their employment. There are no gangs in this neighbourhood.

There is a National school now very well attended, but I should like to see a night school established for young men, say, from 15 to 21 years of age, as it would keep them from the public house. We have two villages in our parish. The houses are good of their kind. There village children go to school or are employed in the woollen factory and paper mills.

The greater number of cottages have gardens either adjoining the houses or at a short distance therefrom.

Cottages.

61. Property of Archdeacon Davies.—Not satisfactory as to repairs or internal condition. One room and back house downstairs, two bed rooms, with garden. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* a year.—[E. B. P.]

Wives of Labourers.

62. *Mrs. Williams.* —My husband is a hedger. He earns 13*s.* a week, and pays rent for his cottage, The ordinary rate of wages is 12*s.* a week, with sometimes a house rent free. No extras in harvest.

63. *Mrs. Jones.*—My husband is an old man, and earns 10*s.* a week, paying rent for his cottage. My boy of 13 years old gets 4*s.* a week in summer and winter.

64. *James,* labourer and rate collector.—The rate of wages is 12*s.* a week for regular men; 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for job men. Some boys are employed scareing birds. Girls who are farm servants turn out to work in the fields, setting and digging potatoes. Women work in the fields at 1*s.* a day and "find themselves." There are only a few in this parish who work in the fields.

School.

65. *Williams,* 12 years old, son of a farmer who holds 300 acres.—I have three brothers. I was absent from school from 22 Feb. to June, and have just come back to school (10 Nov.). My father keeps one servant; employs no labourers. We, the sons, do the work of the farm.

[One of his brothers 9½ years old had also been at work, and had then been in school for six weeks since the summer, and apparently had not been at school at all during the spring.—E. B. P.]

66. *Emily Salter.*—My mother works in the fields and earns 1*s.* a day. She does not work much in winter. Her husband works in the paper mills. I have never been to field work myself, but am kept at home to look after the little ones. There are seven of us in family.

67. A *boy* said, that boys are used for scareing birds;

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Breconshire.
Mr. Portman.
m.

are out wet and dry from 7 a.m. to dark, and get food, but no money; that he went to the farmhouse for his meals, and while away from the field "I do put a flag in the field" to keep the birds away,

68. *Andrew Doyle, Esq.*, poor law inspector and owner of land in Llangenny.—The rate of wages for a regular labourer is 12*s.* a week; for a job man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and 20*s.* at harvest. The wages of boys living in the farmhouses vary according to age; from 11 to 14 years, meat, and from 3*l.* to 6*l.* a year; but the practice of having lads in farmhouses does not prevail.

Women earn 1*s.* a day, and work in the fields for about 24 weeks out of the 52.

Boys are never employed under 10 years of age. When employed at from 12 to 15 years the wages are 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

The earnings of a steady skilful labourer, such as a good hedger would be, all told, about 13*s.* a week; this, however, does not include cider, and 20*s.* for four or five weeks in harvest.

EXTRACT from LETTER from A. Doyle, Esq.

"Plas Dulas, 17 November 1869.

"DEAR MR. PORTMAN,

"* * * * * * * * * I was much struck in talking to labouring men with the very marked preference they have for piece work rather than day labour. As an employer who pays by the day is ever doubtful whether he gets a fair day's work, so the labourer is doubtful whether he gets a fair day's wage. This is particularly so of Welsh labourers. They like too the freedom of working by the piece, but above all the chance of lighting upon 'a good thing,' as navvies sometimes do upon a sand pit. Where children are taken into farmhouses (so called) they rarely go to school. The farmers, however, and some above the class of farmers, are persuaded that they make better labourers when kept from an early age wholly at work.

"The rent of a cottage if taken from the employer and deducted from the wages is from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I fear that throughout Breconshire labouring men walk long distances to their work; this, however, is to some extent their own fault. Not wishing, as one of them expressed it to me, 'to be bound,' they prefer to live in the place that will be the most convenient for jobbing over a wide circuit.

"Yours, &c.,

"ANDREW DOYLE."

69. *Rev. H. Bevan, Llangenny.*—In this parish there are no boys under 10 years of age employed; there are 10 between the ages of 10 and 13, and 8 between 13 and 18 years so employed, and 13 women, of whom three only are unmarried. They are used in spring for cleaning meadows, in summer for haymaking, in autumn for potato-picking, and in winter for topping turnips. They all live either on or near the farms. Most of them are the children or members of the family of the farmer himself. Hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an hour allowed for dinner. There is no injury to health arising from such employment.

Field work has the effect of making women rough and coarse. Immorality too prevails considerably among this class, but owing chiefly to the bad accommodation provided in the houses, and not to the nature of their work.

I do not think any restriction on the employment of females necessary, as the outdoor work is only occasional and done *chiefly* by the servants who live in the farms, or by married women. I do not see how you can prohibit the female servants on a farm from going out to work in the fields at setting and picking potatoes.

The demand for boys' work is not so great as to require restriction.

Of the three plans suggested for enforcing school attendance the third (viz., that adopting the principle of the Printworks Act) seems to me the most satisfactory, if, as I understand it, it means that for six months in the year the children were compelled to attend school; these months might be the winter and spring months when their work is least in request.

I only know of one house in the parish, the position of which renders it rather difficult for children to attend school regularly; there are five or six children who go to school in neighbouring parishes.

I think that the cottage accommodation generally is far from satisfactory. There ought to be at least three bedrooms where there is a family, whereas it is a rare thing to find a house with more than two, and some have only one. If certain regulations could be introduced, regulating the size and number of rooms and the number of those who occupy them it would be an immense advantage; there is no doubt that as things are at present the want of sufficient accommodation produces much discomfort as well as an injurious effect on morals.

The cottages have good gardens and outhouses; drainage is tolerably good; the water has often to be fetched from some distance, as it is difficult to sink wells, in consequence of the hilly nature of the ground. They are owned partly by the landowners and partly by tradesmen. Rent averages 4*l.* a year. There has been a great deal of cottage building of late years in this parish.

To the best of my belief there are not above four or five young persons of the agricultural labouring class who are not able to read fairly. There may be a few more among the farm servants, but they are such a rambling set that it is difficult to keep them in view. Those that are in the parish at present are scarcely any of them *natives* of the parish.

There is no evening school.

LLANBEDER.

70. *Bessie Powell*, schoolmistress. [On November 10 there were 20 children in school.]—I have been here 11 years. From November to April in the first year I was here *the average attendance was four, and in summer no children came for some time.* The average attendance now is 28, and the highest number on the books has been 56.

The parish is large, and there are two hamlets besides. The distance to school is in some cases very great; I have known children come five miles, but the little ones cannot come when the older children are at work, because the parents cannot trust them to go alone.

The school has an endowment, and is attended by children of farmers as well as labourers. Boys do not come back to school after harvest till the middle or end of November, and leave again at the end of March, or sometimes earlier. The girls are quite as irregular in their attendance as the boys, they work on their parents' farms, few farmers employing any labour besides that of their children.

The parents are, as a rule, very uneducated, but I think they are now more anxious about the education of their children than when I first came here.

Children during their absence from school go back very much in learning; the farmers' children keep up their education a little at home.

I think that 100 attendances in the year might be obtained, but I am not in favour of a compulsory system.

LLANGATTOCK AND CRICKHOWELL.

71. *Mr. Fowke*, agent to Sir J. Bailey, Bart.—Women are employed at 10*d.* a day, and 1*s.* a day in harvest. Children are very seldom employed, except perhaps for three weeks in bird keeping. Wages for ordinary labouring men are 2*s.* a day, and 1*l.* in harvest; they pay house rent.

There is no need of legislation here for the agricultural labouring class. Parents are quite awake to the advantages of education, and will make a sacrifice to send their children to a good school, but will not send them to a bad teacher.

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It is very much the custom to have farm servants living on the farm premises, and when lads are so living they have an opportunity of saving money.

The labourers are, in my opinion, well off, and are good workers. Hedging, &c. is done by the day.

72. *Mr. Price*, actuary, savings bank, Crickhowell.—Very few farm lads are depositors in the bank. I do not think there are above 12 agricultural labourers who have money in the bank, but many of the servant girls are depositors. The rate of interest is 2½ per cent. There are many clubs here.

BRITISH SCHOOL, CRICKHOWELL.

73. *Mrs. Bennett*, wife of schoolmaster.—There were from 25 to 30 boys of 16 to 20 years of age in attendance at the school last winter, and five or six young women of 18 years of age.

The school is attended by the children of farmers and labourers; some come from a distance of 4 miles. There are no boys in the school who have worked in the fields for hire, but many are away picking potatoes.

74. *Mrs. Sanders*, occupier, Crickhowell.—I farm 200 acres. I do not employ many labourers; my sons do the work, and I have two boys in the house, one of whom is 15 years old, and gets 6*l.* a year, board and lodging, for looking after the cattle; the other is a ploughman, and has 12*l.* a year, board and lodging. These boys cannot read very much; they never had much chance of schooling; they *might* go to night school, but there is a deal of work to be done on the premises on a winter evening, cutting roots, chaff, &c. and looking after the colts and the stock.

HAY.

75. Rev. W. L. Bevan, vicar.
Mr. Partridge, } farmers.
Mr. Yeomans, }

Small boys are used for bird-keeping. If boys were prohibited from farm work under 10 years of age the loss to the parents would be nothing, the destruction of clothes being greater than the incomings. Boys are not of much use on farms till 11 years of age. We do not have them living in the farmhouses if we can help it. A boy of 11 or 12 years of age will earn 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. The employment of children is only for a few weeks, and they can attend school in the winter.

Girls are not employed in the fields here. Some women are employed for topping turnips, but it is not the usual custom. It is difficult to get women to work in the fields; the wife of a good labourer will not go out. There is no arrangement between the farmer and labourer as to the work of the wife, such used to be the case formerly.

Mr. Partridge and *Mr. Yeomans* stated that, in their experience, women who work in the fields are industrious, and have homes tidy and well kept.

The weeding of corn is chiefly done by horse hoes. Turnip hoeing is done by men by the piece; boys are very rarely employed for singling, the reason being that *in task work the boy must work up to the man*, which his strength will not permit.

The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner. Wages for men are in some cases 6*s.* and 7*s.* a week and food, and 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, taking into consideration *privileges, e.g.*, house rent free, potato ground, wood, cider, and run of a pig. A job man gets 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and expects cider besides.

A woman gets 4*s.* a week for light work, and 1*s.* a day for machine work.

Mr. Partridge said the *privileges* here are much the same as in Devon, but the cottage gardens are not so large as in that county.

Women are occasionally employed in "barking;" they strip and pile the bark; it is only occasional work, depending on a fall of timber, and is done by the piece.

It was thought that there would be no objection to placing a restriction on the employment of boys under 11 years of age.

All parishes in the valley have schools, most of which are under Government inspection, but the distance to the schools from outlying cottages is sometimes great. These schools are certainly taken advantage of by the labouring class. The parents, though often themselves uneducated, are becoming aware of the advantages of education for their children.

It was thought that time must elapse before the benefit of schooling becomes realised by the poor, which will not be till the parents see that the children who have neglected school are in an inferior position to those who have attended regularly.

The feeling was against a compulsory system, at any rate till a sufficient number of schools for the population have been established in convenient localities.

Education among the farmers was said to be very deficient.

The hill country is wild and thinly populated, principally devoted to sheep-runs, which are attached to the farms.

The cottages are built of stone or brick; they are generally bad, though when they are being repaired some improvement is usually made. A few have three bedrooms.

Mr. Yeomans stated that he had 10 attached to his farm.

Some farmhouses are worse than the cottages, being often without any partition in the sleeping rooms, except a bit of drapery.

The gardens are about one-eighth of an acre. Potato ground is often given free and manured.

Some cottages have privies, but not all. Cost of building a single cottage was estimated at 80*l.*, that of a double one 125*l.*

76. *Henry Allen, Esq.*, Oakfield, near Hay.—Boys are not often employed under 12 years old. I think it would be very desirable to place a restriction on their employment before 10 years of age.

Further Government aid is much wanted for the schools in small rural parishes.

LLANIGAN, near HAY.

Population, 429 - Acreage, 4,456.

77. *Rev. W. J. Thomas*, vicar, owner and occupier.—The cultivation is mixed. The upper part of the parish consists chiefly of an extensive unenclosed sheep-walk.

There are few boys employed in agriculture under 14 years of age. Girls are seldom employed except as indoor servants at from 14 to 15 years old.

Labourers' wives are employed out of doors generally, and it is expected that where labourers are engaged their wives when required should work on the same farms as their husbands. Women are scarce, and when employed receive 8*d.* a day. They go but short distances to work, as the cottages are near the farms where the husbands are employed. The hours of work are generally from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I would limit the age for boys' work at 14 years, but in my parish such limit would not be needed.

There is a good National school under a mistress, which is well attended. The boys leave about 12 years old, and seek a school with further advantages as regards the higher and more advanced arithmetical knowledge.

The cottages, as a rule, are in good repair. I think they are sufficient for the supply of labour and conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Where there is a large family of both sexes the sleeping accommodation is not sufficient. There is, as a rule, a garden attached to each cottage.

The pay of labourers varies from 9*s.* the lowest to about 12*s.* the highest per week. The former sum is sometimes given even for a young able-bodied man, but he would in that case be employed throughout the year. I have paid 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for labour

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Breconshire.
Mr. Portman.
m.

near Builth, where I have given employment for some months together.

78. *Mrs. Fryer*, schoolmistress.
8 November 1869.—On books - - 50
In attendance - 35

There is no Government aid given to this school.

I have been mistress for 20 years. Children are taken away from school occasionally for potato-picking, cider-making, and pulling turnips. They do not leave school altogether till 12 years, but before that age they lose a great many days. A boy of 10 years gets 6*d.* a day.

Women work in the fields on small farms, and the children often work with them.

If children were prohibited from working till 10 years of age, I think the loss of earnings by errands and odd jobs would be serious.

COTTAGES.

79. (1.) 1 room and backhouse, down; 2 bedrooms, garden, and privy. Rent 5*l.* 10*s.* a year.

(2.) Next door to No. 1, has 3 bedrooms, and the rent is higher.

(3.) 1 sitting-room and a bedroom on the ground floor; no upper floor; garden and cart shed. Rent over 4*l.* a year.

BUILTH.

Population of union - 8,305.
Acreage of ditto - - 102,953.

The following returns were made by the relieving officers of the Builth union after a discussion at the board of guardians, and under the supervision of the union clerk.—E. B. P.

(No. 1.) BUILTH POOR LAW DISTRICT,

Containing 15 parishes.

80. *John Powell*, relieving officer.—Boys are employed in agriculture at about 12 years of age. In this district girls are not employed in the fields, except occasionally at harvest time.

Women are employed during hay and corn harvest. The distance to work is very short, as the cottages are generally on the farms. The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Boys should not be permitted to work on the land before 12 years of age.

There are 15 parishes in my district, some of which are very thinly populated. There are schools in eight of these, and children from the adjoining parishes attend these schools. In very many instances children of the labouring class do not take advantage of them; poverty is, I think, the only cause for their non-attendance.

The condition of the majority of the cottages is bad; they are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. I have not met with any overcrowding, but the ventilation is in most cases bad. Rents vary from 30*s.* to 4*l.* a year. All have good gardens, but in many instances they are not cultivated.

Wages for a man 12*s.* a week without maintenance; for a woman, 6*s.* a week; for children, 40*s.* per annum and maintenance.

(No. 2.) ABERGWESSIN DISTRICT,

Containing 15 parishes.

81. *John Jones*, relieving officer.—Boys are employed in agriculture at 12 years of age; girls are not so employed, except occasionally at harvest time. Women are not much employed. The distance to work is not great, and the hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are schools in seven out of the 15 parishes in my district, but the children of the labouring classes do not take advantage of them in many instances.

The condition of the cottages is not good; ventilation is defective; they have for the most part good gardens, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Rent from 30*s.* to 80*s.* a year.

[The wages for men, women, and children were said to be the same as stated in Return No. 1.—E. B. P.]

82. *The Rev. R. Lister Venables.*

"DEAR SIR, "Clyro Vicarage, Hay.

"I SEND the paper of questions with such answers as I could give. They refer to a district of Breconshire in the Hundred of Builth, where I do not reside, but where my brother and I have some property, with a residence which he occupies, but where I spend a good deal of time.

"The farmers being of the same class with the labourers, and intermarrying with them, do most of their own work assisted by their children, and where necessary by 'young persons' of both sexes living in the house. They live very frugally, making their profits chiefly by cattle and sheep, especially sheep. There are sheep walks of immense extent on the hills in the manor of Builth, which is identical in area with the Hundred. There are singularly few cottages independent of land. The work in which boys and girls engage is chiefly that which is best suited to them, not hard bodily labour, but helping to tend and look after sheep and cattle, milking, &c."

HUNDRED OF BUILTH.

The inhabitants are chiefly small farmers; there are very few labourers not occupying land. There is, I think, no systematic employment of boys; they assist their parents in looking after sheep and cattle when old enough, or they go out as servants, living in farm-houses as "young persons."

The girls are employed in farm service, either hired or under their parents, in house and dairy work, feeding pigs, &c.; seldom in the fields, except in harvest time. There being few mere labourers, there are few mere women living in cottages unconnected with land in their husbands' occupation. They chiefly work on the farm or premises where they live. The hours for those regularly hired would be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with intervals for meals.

There is no need in this district for any restriction on the employment of boys or females.

An excellent school, well attended, has been in operation since 1st January 1868, at Newbridge, in Radnorshire (close to the borders of Breconshire). It supplies the wants of Llysdinam in Breconshire and Llanyce, the adjoining parish in Radnorshire, being the locality in which I am immediately interested. Excellent school buildings are complete, or nearly so, in Llanagan Fawr, the parish of which Llysdinam is a hamlet.

The cottages are, I think, sufficient for the supply of the ordinary labour demand, because the farmers are themselves almost exclusively working men. Some, especially those occupied by shepherds, are *mere hovels*, but they are in process of improvement. As cottages are built or rebuilt they are made fairly comfortable and decent. There is no water supply by pipes, and sometimes the well or stream is inconveniently distant. All new cottages have casements to open, but there is generally plenty of fresh air, as the house door usually stands open. They are not often overcrowded, but there is not much delicacy as to mingling the sexes. Most cottages, if not all, have gardens, but the people seem to take little pleasure or interest in them.

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EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. NORMAN'S REPORT.

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ANGLESEA.

1. *The Rev. Daniel Rowlands, M.A.*, Principal of the Bangor Training College.—I have been principal of this college since January 1868, but I am a native of Anglesea, and am well acquainted with all North Wales.

Women are not employed at all in agriculture in North Wales, except very occasionally in hay and corn harvest.

Children are not employed to an injurious extent. The larger farmers generally employ a boy of about 12, who acts as an errand boy and serves in the house. His work is light and he is kindly treated.

The education of the agricultural classes is often deficient; this is very generally owing to the want of schools, and that arises sometimes from the difficulty which the people find in obtaining land to build schools upon, *e.g.*, at Port Dinorwig there is only a small National school which is badly attended. All the population are Nonconformists, and they are anxious to build a British school but cannot get a site. There is at present a small undenominational school there, but too paltry to do any good. The only land which would afford a suitable site belongs to a nobleman, who has more than once refused to let them have a piece for that purpose. There is also a great want of schools in Lleyn, the portion of Carnarvonshire which lies to the west of Pwlheli. There are a few districts in Anglesea destitute of school accommodation, and so, in fact, here and there, throughout North Wales; a considerable proportion of the children of agricultural labourers don't go to school at all; but those who do go attend very irregularly and leave at too early an age; that is chiefly owing to the apathy of the parents, but also to their poverty. They cannot afford to pay the fees or to provide proper clothing. I am accustomed to examine rural schools, and think that the children of agricultural labourers generally attend up to the age of 10 or 12; but their attainments, owing to irregularity of attendance, the early age of which they leave school, and the fact that their education is given in a language which is almost entirely foreign to them, are generally too inadequate to be of any practical use to them.

They are only very occasionally kept at home to earn wages and not to such an extent as to interfere with their education. The people believe that the clergy want to bring them back to the Church by means of National schools. The poor send their children to the National schools because they prefer their children having that education to none. They cannot afford to build a sufficient number of British schools. They have to support their ministers, build chapels, and contribute towards their various missionary and benevolent schemes, and all that without deriving any help from the aristocracy of the country, who, generally speaking, evince but little sympathy with their countrymen who speak the Welsh language and attend Nonconformist places of worship. The people would not be satisfied with a Conscience Clause, they think it an insult to be offered a National school with liberty to object to the religious instruction when nine-tenths of the population are Nonconformists. Nor would they be satisfied to have unsectarian education with the clergyman *ex-officio* chairman of the school committee. They would object to this, because they will have nothing whatever to do with the clergy of the Establishment as their religious teachers, and the clergy often treat them and their ministers with contempt.

If the half-time system were applied to agriculture farmers would not employ the boys to whom it applied. The services of boys are not so important to

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Anglesea.

Mr. Norman

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farmers as to induce them to employ boys if by so doing, they had to incur any inconvenience. The education would be improved if the people knew that they could have no outlet for their children if they were uneducated. This could be effected by making proficiency a condition of employment.

Very many of the people of Wales can read, and a considerable number write Welsh, who cannot read and write English. They learn to read Welsh at their Sunday schools, and those who learn to read and write English often do it quite mechanically, without understanding what they read. I believe that the circumstances of Wales, in particular, demand that no Government grants should be given to schools which are not strictly undenominational. I do not mean that the Bible should be excluded from them; with a people so religious as the Welsh I believe that the exclusion of the Bible could not but be to the prejudice even of the best schools. But they are jealously anxious that no denominational dogmas should be taught in the day schools, and hence they are deeply prejudiced against the use of the Catechism and the enforced attendance of the children at church on Sundays, which are inculcated at the National schools. If the clergy were to relinquish the idea of making the day school a seat of proselyting agency for the church, and meet the people in a broad, undenominational, and truly national ground, like that of the British schools, they would most gladly co-operate with them. And this would do a great deal towards perfecting the education of the country. From the want of this we have now in many neighbourhoods two schools where there might be no more than one, and as those are visited by different inspectors, and are patronized by different persons, there is frequently a feeling of jealousy between them, which produces a deal of mischief. The Government would confer an immense boon upon Wales by withholding the grants from all denominational schools, and by making it illegal to apprentice children to any trade or engage them in any kind of service without a certain minimum of education.

2. *Dr. Briscoe*, Holyhead.—I have had charge of the parish for 11 years. It is 10 square miles in extent. There are no schools in it except those in the town. The most distant part of the parish is about four miles from the school, but the population residing more than 2½ miles from the school is very sparse. There is no school at Rhoscolyn, the other parish on this island, *i.e.*, there was none there a short time ago. The agricultural population form 26·7 of the whole population of this parish, but the agricultural children at school form only 3·8 of the whole number of children there. There are therefore a great many who never come to school at all. The occupations are very small, not above 30 acres of cultivable land. There is a great deal of rock. About half the parish is grass. The occupiers are very little raised above the position of labourers. The women don't work in the fields, except occasionally when potatoes have to be got up. Young children very seldom find any work to do in the fields. They hang about at home and do nothing. There is no reason at all why they should not come to school. The fee for labourers' sons would be 2*d.* a week, and wages for labourers are 15*s.* per week in the town, and possibly rather less in the country, so that they cannot be prevented by poverty from sending their children.

The small farmers do not employ labourers, they do all the work themselves, or by their families, but their wives and children don't work much.

I cannot see how it would be possible to apply the Factory Acts to the agricultural population.

The cottages are tolerably good, substantially built, but small; they generally contain one sitting room and two bedrooms. They are built with upper floors. They belong to the landowners and are let with the farms. They have small gardens. There is rather a superfluity of cottage accommodation, because 1,500 men were formerly employed in constructing the breakwater, and cottage accommodation was provided for them. Now not more than 200 men are employed there.

3. *H. B. Hughes, Esq., M.P.*, Plas Coch; *Mr. Pearce*, schoolmaster, Llanedwen.—The population of the parish is about 280. There is a factory for framing slates here. The farms vary in size from 600 acres to 30 or 40. Probably about half in grass.

Women are not at all employed in field work; girls may be occasionally employed in picking stones, &c., but to a very trifling extent.

Boys are employed in thinning turnips, picking potatoes and stones; those operations will last off and on for about three months in the year, but boys under 10 years of age are not employed at them. The farmers hire the boys individually to do that work. It is never done by the piece. The continuous work for boys begins at about the age of 13 or 15.

The school is a mixed school; between 70 and 80 in average attendance, and 130 on the books. Almost all are the children of agricultural labourers who belong to four neighbouring parishes. The most distant part from which children come to attend our school is about 2½ miles, but there is a small infant school to which the youngest children who live at a distance can go. They prefer anything to education, the parents are indifferent about it; the children remain in school until they get some fixed work. They leave at an earlier age to work in the slate works than in the fields. There are a great many in the four parishes who don't go to our day school at all, but they go to the Sunday school, and can most of them read Welsh.

Mr. Hughes pays 11*s.* a week, but farmers generally hire men by the half year and board them. They receive from 10*l.* to 12*l.* for six months. Lads when they first go out get 4*l.* to 6*l.* and their meat. All the cottages belong to the landowners. The rent is from 3*l.* to 5*l.* with gardens.

There are scarcely any cottages which belong to either speculators or the labourers themselves. The farmers generally allow their men a piece of potato ground.

4. *The Rev. William Wynne Williams*, rector of Llangeinwen and Llangaffo, and rural dean.—Women and children occasionally work in the fields about here, but only in taking up potatoes and turnips, picking stones, &c. They work quite voluntarily. They get about 1*s.* a day and their meat. They do no work which is at all injurious to them. The attendance at school is very irregular in consequence of the occasional employments in which the children are engaged. This district is well supplied with schools. There is no locality in my rural deanery (which includes nine parishes) which has not a school within access of it. The girls go to service and many of the boys to sea. Both the girls and boys leave school at about the age of 13 or 14. All the parents send their children to school, except those who are indifferent about education. The agricultural labour in which children are employed does not seriously interfere with their education. There is a good deal of grass in this neighbourhood and much stock is bred. The population has decreased lately in consequence of the increased quantity of machinery used in agriculture. The cottages are sufficient in number. The rent is from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*, with gardens. Many labourers keep a cow; the farmers let them a sufficient amount of land to enable them to provide keep. The holdings are nearly all large.

There are two schools in this parish, a National and a British school, within a quarter of a mile of each other. The rivalry between the two is very injurious to education, because if the children take offence at the treatment they receive at one, they can always get taken in at the other. No new law is at all necessary here to secure the attendance of the children. All that is necessary is that the parents should be impressed with the importance of education. I am rather averse to compulsion in any form, but the only form in which I think it could do any good is by making the permission to work depend on the

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proficiency of the child. I employ two men and pay 13*s.* a week, but I think that is rather higher than the farmers pay.

5. *Mr. Davies*, schoolmaster, Llanidan.—This school is supported entirely by Lord Boston. The fee is 1*d.* a week; it is a mixed school. There were 72 present this morning [27th September]. The boys leave finally at the age of 12 to 14, the girls rather earlier. The attendance is better in winter than in summer; the village is close to the school. The attendance is irregular for about two months in the summer. About 30 are generally absent. Some come two miles to school. The boys are generally in the second class before they leave; they can read decently and work money sums. Many in the neighbourhood don't come to school at all. I don't know why.

6. *John Williams, Esq.*, Treffos, Llansadwrn, has been chairman of the Quarter Sessions, Beaumaris, since 1822; *Rev. James Williams* has been rector of Llanfairynghornwy for 48 years, diocesan inspector of schools.—The parishes in Anglesea are most of them small. 200 acres would be considered a large farm, and the quantity would be certainly under 100 acres and possibly under 50. It is a cattle breeding country; no cheese is made. The quantity of grass is increasing.

Women are employed very slightly in planting potatoes, and a little in the hay and corn harvest. Children under 13 are employed in planting and a very little in getting up potatoes, but never in other occupations. All the ploughing is done with reins. Boys are never employed to drive. At about the age of 14 they get places in the farmhouses. They probably get their food and scarcely any wages for the first year. The boards of guardians never provide for children after the age of 14; they provide for them up to that age, except in the case of very big boys. It cannot be said that women and boys are employed more by the small than by the large farmers, but the small farmers employ their own families to a greater extent than the larger farmers. The practice of thinning turnips by contract is gradually coming in; none but men with families contract for that work, and they bring their own children to assist them.

We think that the island is tolerably well supplied with schools. There are very few villages. They are increasing in number, but the increase has ceased since the passing of the Union Chargeability Bill. There may be a few cottages in out-of-the-way districts which are out of access of a school.

The Rev. James Williams has been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools and thinks the instruction given is tolerably satisfactory. They are generally under masters, assisted by a woman to teach sewing. He thinks that they may be taken as fair samples of the general run of schools in the island. The people are beginning to send their children very generally. The people find that they cannot get good places for their children in after life unless the latter can speak English. Formerly the English language only was used in schools. Now the Welsh language is more employed for the purpose of giving instruction in the English language, and the education is not nearly as mechanical as it used to be. There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents.

The Rev. James Williams thinks that education would be stimulated if the grant were occasionally given where fewer than 200 attendances had been secured, supposing the irregularity caused by some special circumstances, such as an epidemic.

Cottages are generally sufficient in number, and conveniently situated; but the accommodation is very limited. As a general rule they consist of one room only, used for both sleeping and living purposes, although usually the beds are so placed as to form a separation between the sleeping from the living portion.

Mr. John Williams thinks that one sleeping apartment partitioned as above leads to less immorality than separate bedrooms, as all, males and females, are then under the eyes of the heads of the family. The cottages are always substantially built of stone and slated, but they have no ventilation, because the windows are not made to open. The rent is generally about 2*l.* to 2*l.* 12*s.* a year, with a small garden, let yearly. They belong principally to the landlords and are let to the farmers to be sub-let by them; but we have never heard of the farmers making use of the cottages which they hold for purposes of oppression.

All the unmarried men whom the farmers employ are lodged and boarded on the premises. They are very badly lodged. They sleep in lofts over the stables and cowhouses, and are under no control at nights. The married men lodge themselves and are boarded by the farmers. Not many of the labourers occupy land beyond their garden. Some of them own cows, which are pastured either on the roadsides or are taken into pasture by the farmers. Buttermilk is a universal article of diet for persons of all ages; but they, the labourers, are mainly dependent on their employers for milk. Very little animal food is consumed: the chief articles of diet are bread, butter, potatoes, and milk.

It does not pay to build cottages; a very indifferent cottage cannot be built for less than 50*l.*

Mr. John Williams pays his labourers 12*s.* a week all the year round; but they have no increase in harvest. The men who are boarded in the houses are hired by the half year. In the large farms the best men get 9*l.* to 10*l.* for six months, the second men about 7*l.*, and the third about 3*l.* 10*s.* at least. The hirings take place in the towns and principal villages on the 13th of November and 13th May. They get nothing extra at harvest time, but are a little better fed.

The supply of labour is rather short. The quarry men never come to work in harvest. It is very difficult to get extra men to assist at that time.

The Rev. James Williams has had opportunities of observing the comparative powers of English and Welsh labourers when the railroad was being made through the island. He observed that the English navvies always did more work than the Welsh labourers for the first fortnight that the latter were employed; but after the Welshmen had become accustomed to the work and had lived for some time on the meat diet on which the navvies lived the Welshmen became the hardest workers He attributes this to the Welshmen having had a more nutritious diet when they were young. That the Welshmen are the larger men is proved by the fact that the Welsh militiamen require a larger proportion of the larger sized clothes in proportion to their height than the English militiamen of corresponding heights.

The great engineering works which have been executed in the country by English contractors, *e.g.*, the Menai bridge and the Holyhead breakwater, have been constructed by Welsh labourers.'

[I read the above statements to Mr. Lawrie, Sir R. Bulkeley's agent, who agreed with it in the main, but gave me the following additional information.]

7. *Mr. Lawrie*, manager of Sir R. Bulkeley's property in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire.—On Sir R. Bulkeley's home farm, which contains 900 acres, near Beaumaris, and on three or four large farms in the neighbourhood, women and children under 13 years of age, both boys and girls, are employed in collecting weeds, spreading manure, singling and hoeing turnips, and cutting thistles. That work lasts from the 1st April to the middle of August. The youngest children have 6*d.* a day, and we never pay more than 1*s.*; if the boys are dissatisfied with that they must go and obtain places for themselves. Sometimes from 20 to 40 are employed on Sir R. Bulkeley's farm at once. They are employed in gangs of about 15 under the superintendence of a labourer. The small boys who get only 6*d.* a day are perhaps only 8 or 9 years old. They are only employed in singling

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turnips and cutting weeds on the pastures. Women receive 1*s.* a day. We could employ many more women than we do, but they are not disposed to come out to work. We employ many children, because we are near a town and can get them; but the small farmers employ the same number of labourers all the year round. They never have extra hands.

The cottages, both in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire, are extremely bad. They require to be entirely remodelled. All cottages should have three bedrooms each. There are a good many cottages belonging to squatters on the commons who are not better off than common day labourers.

The Nuisance Acts are very imperfectly carried out; the inspection of nuisances should be made compulsory.

The large farmers feed their labourers better than the small, but the men who are boarded in farmers' houses very seldom get any meat except bacon. Their families can generally purchase milk from the farmers. It costs 90*l.* to 100*l.* to build a cottage with three bedrooms here; but it can only be roughly done for that. Coal costs 14*s.* a ton including cartage, but most of the farmers cart the coals for their men.

During harvest extra men are engaged by the month at 18*s.* or 20*s.* a week, including beer. The men who are hired by the year get no extra money for harvest, but they are paid rather higher during the last half year than during the first.

I am a Scotchman, but have often seen English labourers work. I think they are better workmen than the Welsh; they are better fed and are more energetic.

We pay 11*s.* a week to common labourers and 12*s.* to carters, and they all have milk worth about 1*s.* a week, and 16*s.* extra for harvest. They live on home-made bread and butter and milk; they have nothing else.

Women and children are employed to a greater extent in Anglesea than in Carnarvonshire.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

Carnarvonshire

8. *Mr. H. B. Jones*, master of the British school, Bethesda.—I have been here eight years. This is a mixed school. There are 300 on the books, including the evening scholars. There are not half-a-dozen agricultural children in the school. There are no farms about here, but there has been a great influx of agricultural labourers to this place. The parents exchange agricultural for quarry work. The children of the agricultural labourers who settle here from other places come to this school. I should expect the son of a quarry man to pass about Standard V. at the age of 12, but I find that children who come from agricultural districts are not as forward as the children of quarrymen. Some I have had to put in Standard I. at the age of 12.

I have a night school here three evenings a week all the year round. Boys attend from the age of 13 to 21 at least. The average number in attendance is about 80 in winter and 30 in summer. They are all boys who are anxious to improve themselves; and those who have been living here are generally the best scholars. According to my experience and that of my fellow teachers in the neighbourhood, night scholars make quite as satisfactory progress as day scholars. I have some lads in the night school whose education has been entirely neglected. I have about 12 now in Standard I. It is very difficult to teach them. I had much sooner teach an infant of 3 his alphabet than a boy of 13. They make but little progress compared with those whose education has been attended to when young. I think it would be very difficult to teach a lad in a night school who could not pass Standard II. when he joined it. If he could not pass Standard I. I should consider his case hopeless.

I am a Dissenter. I think that education would advance greatly in Wales if the assistance of dissenting ministers could be secured. They take more interest in the schools than they used, but not as much as the clergy of the Establishment. The interest of the ministers would increase if they were allowed to give dogmatic religious instruction in the British schools. I do not think the Welsh would ever consent to purely secular education. They would undoubtedly sooner send their children to National schools than have their education altogether neglected. I believe they often send their children to National schools in country districts, because otherwise they would have to deprive them entirely of education; but I have often heard Dissenters complain of the religious instruction their children have received in the National schools, although they have made no formal objection.

I have always thought that night schools would suit agricultural districts better than any other plan. If proficiency were required children would easily be taught to obtain the required proficiency mechanically. I should prefer regular attendance at night school.

9. *Owen Jones, Esq.*, land-agent, Carnarvon.—I have lived here all my life, and have management of landed property in the counties of Anglesea, Denbigh, and Carnarvon. The whole of Carnarvonshire is an agricultural county, with the exception of the quarries. The farms contain on an average about 100 acres of arable land each, but those adjoining the mountains generally have a large sheep walk attached to them. In some cases the landlords have not enclosed the portions of the mountains which have been allotted to them, and in those cases the mountains are treated as common land, and each farmer has the right of pasturing a certain number of sheep. The sheep walks are many hundred of acres in extent.

Women are very slightly employed in agriculture. They are employed a little in haymaking and harvest, as well as during the spring of the year, but not in winter. Young children of about 10 years old and upwards are also employed in light agricultural work during the spring, but their work is occasional and not continuous. They are not employed in large gangs, although two or three are occasionally employed together. It is not the practice here for men to take work by contract, and bring children to assist them. The boys get places in the farmhouses at 12 or 13 years of age. They are hired by the year. A good labourer gets about 20*l.* a year and his board and lodging, and if hired by the week a man gets 15*s.* a week in this neighbourhood. Boys begin at about 3*l.* a year. They sleep in lofts over stables and cowhouses, which are generally ill-lit and ill-ventilated. Where new farm buildings are being put up better accommodation is generally provided, but very few farm buildings are being erected at present. The practice of annual hiring is not going out at all.

There are plenty of cottages; they are substantially built, but they are small. As a general rule the whole family sleeps and lives in one room. The cottages are thus often very much crowded. They are generally scattered about the country, and are let with the farms. I see no objection to that plan. The cottages almost invariably belong to the landlords; the rent is 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* They have gardens if let at the higher price. The occupiers of cottages very rarely hire enough land to enable them to keep a cow, but they always obtain milk from their employers both for themselves and their families.

I don't think that the state of education at present is satisfactory. There are not enough schools, and the children are taken away too young. There are an immense number of children now growing up without the power of reading and writing. There is

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no agricultural work which really interferes with the education. The main obstacle to education is the indifference of the parents. Education never will be satisfactory as long as it is left to the option of the parents whether they send their children to school or not.

It is very desirable that a law should be passed requiring a certain amount of education as a condition of employment.

10. *Mr. W. W. Roberts*, surgeon.—I have practised here as a medical man for nearly 30 years, and to a great extent among the lower classes. Neither the women or children who are engaged in agricultural employments are employed in any occupations which are injurious to their health. I don't think women are employed with threshing machines. Boys occasionally meet with accidents from machinery, but I don't think that these accidents are sufficiently numerous to form a ground of serious complaint. The principal disease in this county is consumption. I attribute that to the low diet. They do not take a sufficient quantity of meat. They all drink buttermilk, but that contains very little nourishment, and cannot be looked upon as a substitute for meat. The chief articles of diet are tea, buttermilk, bread, and potatoes. They probably only eat meat on Sundays, and then either bacon or salt beef. The boys in a farmhouse usually get meat (probably salt beef) every day. They formerly only ate barley bread, but they have lately begun to eat bread of a better quality. They generally mix the barley and wheat flour now. They also sometimes eat oat bread and oatmeal porridge for supper. The cottages are very small, but are substantially built, stone and slate being cheap. The inhabitants don't suffer much from want of ventilation, because the cottages are unceiled, nor from want of drainage, because they are not generally collected in large villages. The principal fault to be found with them is the want of privacy. The lowest class contain one room only for living and sleeping purposes. The next class above that have a small portion of the room partitioned off to form one or two bedrooms, and in some cases the portion which is thus partitioned off is divided into an upper and a ground floor. The upper floor is reached by a moveable ladder from the portion of the cottage which is used as a living room. The class of cottages rather better than these have regular upper floors, containing usually two rooms. They generally have gardens, but the farmers very commonly allow their labourers to manure a piece of their own (*i.e.* the farmer's) land and plant it with potatoes. The labourers always use four-post beds, which are boarded up on three sides; these are useful to keep off draughts in the open cottages which contain no partitions, but are very close in other cases. I have reason to believe that the want of privacy in the cottages leads to great immorality.

11. *Miss Smith*, schoolmistress, Bontnewyd, Carnarvon.—I have been here two years. It is a mixed school. Last year the average number in attendance was 88. The children are mainly agricultural children. Both boys and girls remain at school up to about the age of 11. The attendance is tolerably regular. Some irregularity is caused by stone-picking, planting potatoes, and hay and corn harvest; nearly half the school go away for stone picking and potato planting. Those two operations last about five weeks. Girls don't go away much for that work, but they do for hay-making. The younger children go away for stone-picking, but the elder ones for potato planting and hay-making; they either toss the hay or mind the house when the parents are out. Those who have attended school from an early age will generally have passed Standard IV. by the time they leave, but many who live at a distance don't come to school until they are 7 or 8 years old, and they of course are not so far advanced when they leave. There are many in the neighbourhood who don't come to school at all.

The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent the children learning to read, write, and cipher, if they would attend regularly at other times.

12. *The Rev. J. W. Ellis*, rector of Llanaelhaiarn and chairman of the Pwlheli bench of magistrates.—I am well acquainted with this peninsula, and in fact the whole county. Some farms here are very large (400 or 500 acres), but on an average they are about 60 acres; they vary from 30 to 150. The greater part of the land is undrained and meadow gorse. The labour of the farm is chiefly done by labourers hired for the half year on 12th May and 12th November. There are hiring fairs in all the large towns. Women are hired as well as men, but women are scarcely ever employed except for domestic purposes. They generally feed the pigs, milk, plant potatoes, and make hay.

I don't think that much harm arises from the hiring fairs. Occasionally, when the weather is wet, they are obliged to go to the public houses for shelter, and then immorality ensues. I think it would be very desirable to provide a covered building, in which the hiring could take place, so as to render it unnecessary for them to go to the public houses. The men's wages vary from 12*l.* to 15*l.* for the half year, and sometimes more, besides board and lodging.

Boys begin to go to work at about 12 years of age. They then get places in the farm houses. They may be worked occasionally under that age, at such things as stone-picking, but the work done by boys under that age is not important to the farmers, nor is the sum they can earn sufficient to be of value to the parents. Neither women or children are physically injured by any work which they do in the fields.

The supply of schools is, I think, very insufficient in this county generally, except just in the neighbourhood of towns. In many parishes where there are schools at present they are of too low a quality to be really useful. In parishes where the landlords won't subscribe to the schools it is impossible to comply with the requirements of the Privy Council for the purpose of obtaining the grant. I think it very desirable that power should be given to impose rates for the purpose of supplying school accommodation. The parents and children are very desirous of having their children educated, and would consider the supply of good schools the greatest boon; no compulsion is necessary in this district. The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them now to earn wages.

The cottages generally belong to the landlords, and are let with the farms. Rent is about 2*l.* to 3*l.* a year; they have gardens as a general rule, and have usually the privilege of planting potatoes in their employer's land. They have not proper conveniences. They usually consist of only one room with a division extemporised by means of the box beds.

13. *R. Lloyd Edwards, Esq.*, Nanhoran, Llangian.—I farm about 320 acres of my own land. The farms here range from about 15 to 150 acres; there are a good many of large size, running up to 300 acres. The rent of the county averages 10*s.* 6*d.* an acre, including the mountain, but the average rent of this district is probably about 12*s.*

The lower land is best suited for oats, but there are also some good barley farms, also well suited for root crops and potatoes. Almost all the work of the farms is done by men who are hired by the half year and boarded by the farmer. That system is pursued both by small and large farmers. The number of men they board depends on the size of the farm. These labourers are generally unmarried men; but occasionally they marry and continue to live in the farm houses, visiting their families occasionally until they can get a cottage or small farm. The best men get as much as 15*l.* for the half year, an ordinary man from 9*l.* to 12*l.*, but if the farmer requires extra men in winter for draining, repairing fences, &c. they sometimes do not board them but give them about 1*s.* a day, and the run of a cow, or of half a dozen sheep,

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and some corn, or 1*s.* 6*d.* without allowances. I don't think many boys go out to service under the age of 14 or 15, and at that age they get 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* for the half year. I have never heard any objection raised to the hiring fairs here. At about the age of 12 boys sometimes get employed by the farmers as errand boys or to mind sheep, cows, or to harrow, &c.; they then generally live at home and receive no wages in money, but are fed by the farmer who employs them. They are never employed to drive plough, very little to scare birds, or to single turnips. In fact the farmers hardly employ any labour except the men whom they hire by the year. Women scarcely do any work in the fields. Sometimes old maids or widows go out to assist in seed time and autumn, but they do no work at other times of the year. I employ one such woman.

I think that the supply of school accommodation is generally quite sufficient. I know of one district near this place where a school is wanted, and a proposal has been made to put one up there. The poor are very desirous of having their children educated, and there is no agricultural work done by children in the fields to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory education. The district is extremely healthy. I don't think it at all necessary to apply the Factory Acts in any form to the agricultural population.

I hire labourers by the week, and pay 13*s.* a week to the best man, and 12*s.* 6*d.* to the ordinary men. They have extra for mowing hay, but for no other work; if they work overtime they have 2*d.* a hour.

The cottages are sufficient in number and are conveniently situated with respect to the work to be done; I think that many of them are crowded. I always let land varying from six to about 15 acres with my cottages. The occupiers generally keep one or two cows and grow a little corn and potatoes. They occasionally have to leave their work for a day to work on their own land, but not often enough to destroy their usefulness as farm labourers. The ploughing on these small holdings is done either by men who go about making a living by letting out ploughs and horses, or else two men, each of whom keeps a horse, join together and plough one another's land. The larger farms have a cottage or two let with them, and they screw the occupiers far more than the landowners. I think that the system of letting land in small pieces which I have described answers well. The men when they don't work for themselves go to work for the larger occupiers.

A regular labourer ought not to have more than two or three acres of land. They can keep a cow and pig on that. The smallest amount of land which a farmer can live and do well upon is 40 or 50 acres.

[I read the above statement to Mr. B. T. Ellis, chairman of the Pwlheli Board of Guardians, and manager of Lord Penrhyn's estate in this neighbourhood. Mr. Ellis agreed to the correctness of Mr. Lloyd Edwards' paper, but made the following addition to it as the result of his own experience.]

14. *Mr. B. T. Ellis*, Pwlheli.—I have managed Lord Penrhyn's property here for eight years. I farm about 100 acres of my own land. I pay 12*s.* to ordinary labourers all the year round; I employ two women constantly; I pay them 1*s.* a day; no extra allowances to either men or women. I don't think the cottages are at all sufficient either in number or accommodation; many have only earthen floors, or are badly thatched, and the pigsties are badly placed. The holders of small pieces of land generally pay more rent per acre than the larger occupiers. I am very much opposed to a man occupying more land than enough to keep a cow on; if he does he is apt to remain at home idling instead of going out to regular work. Except in the above points I agree with the statements contained in Mr. Edwards' paper.

15. *Mr. Jenkins*, master of the grammar school, Llangian.—I have been here 15½ years. There are about 60 boys in ordinary attendance, about two-thirds of whom are the sons of labourers or small farmers. They come at the age of 5. They are rather irregular, owing to their parents keeping them at home to assist in the seed time and autumn; perhaps one-sixth are absent at those times. The boys of all ages are irregular at these times. They remain at school up to about the age of 14 on an average. I don't think any boys ever leave the school until they have acquired a sufficient knowledge of the three R.'s to enable them to perform the ordinary transactions of life. A few children don't come at all, owing to the carelessness of their parents. The small farmers' and labourers' sons are more irregular than the others. We have power to discharge them if they are irregular, but we don't do it, as the parents are all desirous of education, and don't keep their children at home except in urgent cases.

16. *Mr. Evans*, schoolmaster, Llannor.—This is a mixed school. Last year there were 103 on the books, and 52 in average attendance. By far the larger proportion of the children are the children of agricultural labourers. The fees are 2*d.*, 1½*d.*, and 1*d.*, according to the class in the school in which they are. Some come as far as three miles to school, and are quite as regular in attendance as those who live nearer. The majority live within one mile. They generally come to school at about the age of 6. I think that the sons of agricultural labourers attend on an average up to the age of 13 or 14. The girls leave rather younger than the boys in order to go to a sewing school at Pwlheli. They are all very irregular, but the farmers' sons more so than the labourers'. The irregularity in the case of the farmers' sons is caused by their being kept at home to work, but in the case of the labourers' sons it is owing simply to the indifference of the parents. The farmers' sons are irregular all through the spring and summer, but the labourers' sons are only kept at home to plant and get up potatoes in their parents' gardens in spring and autumn.

There are a good many children about who never come to school. Last year only six were presented in the three higher standards, and 43 in the three lower. I am afraid that many of these 43 will have left before the next examination.

The average attendance last year was better than it has ever been before. The average attendance in former years has been 30 or 35. They begin to be irregular about the age of 9 or 10. There are a great many bastard children, who are more irregular and careless than any others.

17. *Mr. J. W. Roberts*, master of the British school, Nefyn.—I have been here four years. This is a mixed school. There are 120 on the books, and about 90 in average attendance. About one-fifth of the children are the children of agricultural labourers or small farmers; the remainder are chiefly the children of mariners. They remain at school up to the age of 12 or 13. The small farmers' sons are kept at home to assist their parents in hay and corn harvest, but they are not hired to work for wages. The attendance is best during winter. The agricultural children attend better than the mariners'. When the agricultural children leave they can generally pass not lower than the fourth standard. The occasional employments do not interfere much with the education. They can obtain a satisfactory elementary education if they attend regularly at times of the year when there is no work to be done in the fields.

18. *The Venerable Archdeacon Evans, Llanllechid.*—Population 2,724. Acreage 17,630. Cultivation, arable 2,938, pasture 8,326, wood 70, common or mountain 6,296. Very little wheat grown at present, though portions of the parish lying near to the Menai Straits are favourable to its growth.

The production of turnips and root crops is considerable as compared to that of former years. As the farmers have the run of the mountain common, a large number of sheep are kept, but as they are all allowed to wander at random over the fields in winter and early spring, this circumstance renders it impossible to cultivate clover and artificial grasses on a large scale.

This and the neighbouring parish of Llandegai compose what is styled the quarry district. There

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is in this district a population of nearly 11,000, depending mainly upon the production of slate in the Penrhyn quarries. Agricultural labour forms but a very small portion of the employment of the lower classes; as soon as a boy is capable of work, he is placed upon the quarry books, and it is considered a great advantage to initiate boys in the manipulation of slates at as early an age as possible. It must be allowed, to the credit of the parents, that they are anxious to give their children all the education that can be compressed within the short time limited to the purpose, but it is emphatically the complaint of school managers in the slate districts that the boys are taken away at too early an age to receive more than the rudiments of an English education. There are, however, ample means of education in the National and British schools, and as quarry men have more hours of leisure in the evening than agricultural labourers, the elements of education in the English tongue received in early years are developed as the boys grow up in a fondness for reading, and result in stamping the character of the quarry men with an intelligence equal, if not superior, to any other hard-working class in the country.

It can scarcely be said that boys and girls are employed in agricultural labour in the fields; the children of small farmers may be, perhaps, employed in some handy operations, but not so as to interfere with their going to school. It is probable that some are kept occasionally at home to pick stones from hay-fields, or to raise potatoes, or to weed turnips, but they are seldom seen so employed. Some boys also are employed in driving the carts of the small carriers to and from Bangor. Women are not employed in agricultural labour; it is difficult to get women to weed gardens or to raise potatoes. If any agricultural work is done at all by children, young persons, and women it is done at home, and there are no stated hours.

No restrictions need be placed on the age at which boys should be permitted to work in regard to land labour, or on the employment of females and the young in this district.

There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them.

There are very few children without some amount of education in English.

They are all taught to read in their native tongue at the Sunday schools, and scarcely any are unable to write in Welsh.

The cottages are eminently clean and comfortable. Hundreds of quarry men are owners in fee of their cottages.

Lord Penrhyn has built and is building a large number of a superior class of cottages upon the farms; there is no overcrowding, except in very few instances. The air is pure, the water excellent, and the slope of the parish towards the sea favourable to natural drainage.

Generally they have good gardens, and there is no difficulty in obtaining potato land from the farmers.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Denbighshire.

19. *Mr. J. R. Jones*, Denbigh, farms 300 acres (140 grass).—I don't grow any peculiar crops. I don't employ women; cannot get them to work. May employ them a little during hay harvest. The weeding is done by men; they take it by the acre. I don't employ boys at all; the youngest of my lads is between 17 and 18. I let my turnip hoeing, and the men who take it generally bring a woman and a boy to single. My own staff of men do not take that work. There is no other work done on my farm in which women and children are employed under men. I don't board any men, but some lodge in my house; the farmers here usually board some of their men. Men's wages here are 13*s.* a week all the year round, without increase in harvest, or 1*s.* less, with increase in harvest.

20. *Mr. Davis*, Henllan, occupier of between 400 and 500 acres; *Mr. Evans*, Denbigh, occupier of between 400 and 500 acres; *Mr. Parry*, occupier of 420 acres, St. Asaph.—We none of us employ women, and never employ boys under 13. Boys are generally first engaged between the ages of 14 and 20. They receive about 3*l.* a year at first. We don't think that the smaller occupiers employ women to a greater extent than we do, but boys may be employed younger by them than by us.

Some cottages are generally let with each farm, but the number so let varies greatly. The rent paid is about 3*l.* a year.

[I had an opportunity of conversing with *Mr. Lloyd*, occupier of 240 acres, Llanrhaiadr; *Mr. Barber*, occupier of 150 acres, Llangwyfan; and *Mr. Roberts*, occupier of 330 acres, Henllan. These gentlemen stated that the labourers were well contented and settled, and that 12*s.* was the ordinary wage paid; they thought that the extra earnings amounted to about 2*l.* for harvest, and 1*l.* for hay, including the beer allowed in both cases. In other points their statements only went to confirm the statements of the other witnesses I have examined in this neighbourhood.]

21. *W. Hanmer, Esq.*, Bodnod, Eglwys Fach.—This parish is about seven or eight miles long and four wide. The supply of labour is about equal to the demand. The population has not increased materially within my recollection (about 50 years). The parish is purely agricultural. The farms are from 50 to 100 acres in extent. Crops of all kinds are grown. The farms in the valleys are rather larger than those on the hills. The general form of the parishes in the neighbourhood is that of strips of land, embracing portions of both the hills and the valley.

Women are scarcely at all employed in farm work; they don't like it. Boys are not employed below the age of 12 or 13; at that age they generally go out and get placed in farmhouses, where they are well treated; they lodge in the farm houses. The children remain at school from the age of 6 to about 12 or 13, at which age many go away and get places in factories, on railroads, &c. All those who go out to work in the fields go out at about that age.

The cottages are excellent, and are very conveniently situated with respect to the work to be done.

Girls are not employed in out-of-door work; they are only employed in domestic service.

I should strongly object to the Factory Acts being applied to agricultural districts. I think it is unnecessary, and would be impracticable.

I know the district well, and do not think that this parish is different from others in the neighbourhood in any of the points here described.

22. *Mr. Beverley.*—Was schoolmaster at Eglwys Fach for 30 years; resigned last spring. The school was accessible to all in the parish. The fees for farmers' children are 4*d.* for those in the first class, 3*d.* for those in the second, and 2*d.* for those in the third. The fees for labourers' children was half the above sums in each case. All those who sent their children were anxious for them to get into the higher classes, although they had to pay a higher fee in consequence. The school is inspected. It is a mixed school. Average attendance last year 65. Rather more than half were the children of labourers, the remainder were farmers' children. The farmers' children remained longer than the labourers'. The labourers' sons attend up to about the age of 12. They were generally in the second class when they left, and could work in the

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fourth standard. The attendance was regular, except in bad weather. Some irregularity was caused by the operations of planting and raising potatoes, when the children went to work for the farmers, and eight or nine days were occupied for each operation; rather longer for raising than for planting the potatoes. The farmers give straw and milk to the parents in return for the children's labour.

Scores of children never attend school at all, on account of the carelessness of their parents. After the age of 12 boys can earn 8*d.* a day, but they don't work before that age. There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children learning the three R.'s satisfactorily.

The cottages let for 3*l.* to 4*l.* They belong chiefly to the landowners. They mostly have gardens.

23. *Mr. W. M. Clarke*, agent to Mr. Hughes, Kinmel.—I am well acquainted with the north of Denbighshire and Flintshire, as well as with the island of Anglesea. About two-thirds of the lower land is under the plough, and a great deal of the land higher up the hills. This is mainly a corn growing country. The breeding of stock is not well understood here, but a large proportion of Anglesea is particularly adapted to the breeding of stock. Very few women have been employed in out-of-door work during the last 15 or 20 years, but they were more extensively employed formerly. The turnips were formerly weeded and the hay made chiefly by women, but it is not so now. A few boys are occasionally employed in singling turnips and gathering stones, but to a small extent. Their hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour from 12 to 1 for dinner. Boys are seldom regularly employed under 14 or 15 years of age. They were formerly employed younger. I don't think it necessary for farmers to employ boys under 12 or 14; the use of machinery obviates the necessity of having them.

The farms here are from 10 to 600 acres; the average is about 200. The small farmers do all the work on their farms themselves. Mr. Hughes has built many cottages within the last 10 years; they always have two and sometimes three bedrooms, and are scattered about the country so as to be at a convenient distance from the farms. Two or three are let with each of the principal farms. I find that three-bedroom cottages built economically in blocks cost 120*l.* to 130*l.* each. There are a good many squatters in some parts. When cottages are let to the farmers we always put a rent on them ourselves, which the farmer may not raise when he sub-lets the cottage. All the cottages in the country have gardens. Men's wages here are 15*s.* for casual workmen; 13*s.* for ploughmen; 12*s.* for ordinary labourers; women 1*s.* a day; and boys of from 12 to 15 have 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day; scarcely any allowances are given.

There are schools in almost every district, and a far stronger desire for education than formerly existed.

24. *H. R. Sandbach, Esq.*, Hofodunos, Llangerniew.—This parish contains 7,753 acres. The average size of the farms is 120 acres, but there is one of 600 acres, and two or three of about 400. Fully half is grass. The supply of labour is about equal to the demand, except just during harvest. I have built many new cottages, which I let for 4*l.* a year. I let very few to the farmers, and where I do let them to farmers I prohibit lodgers being taken in. Almost all have gardens. A few in the village who have not have allotments of about a quarter of an acre each. There were formerly many squatters on the common here; their cottages were thatched without an upper story, and without any boarding or pavement on the floor. Most of these have been pulled down. I formerly always built cottages with three bedrooms; I now build them with two bedrooms, because I find more families who require cottages with two than with three bedrooms.

25. *David Davis*, foreman to Mr. Sandbach.—Been here 24 years. Boys are first engaged by farmers at about the age of 12 to 14. They are engaged by the year, and receive from 30*s.* to 50*s.* a year and their board and lodging. They are not employed with the horses, but mind the cattle and sheep, and learn to milk. Girls don't go to farm work. The school breaks up about June and July, in order to allow the children to thin and weed turnips. That occupies them for about four weeks. The farmer hires the children himself, and pays them about 10*d.* to 14*d.* a day. That work is not let out to be done by contract.

Very few women go out to work. I don't think there are a dozen in this parish who ever go out. More used to go out formerly. They work at hay and harvest and hoe turnips. They do no other work. Many of the farmers don't employ any women. I think it a bad thing that women should work in the fields; they have quite enough to do at home. Mr. Sandbach employs about five boys under 14 on his farm, on condition of their attending school for three months at least each year; if they do not they are discharged. Last year they were at school for five months. I can spare them without inconvenience. A farmer could not spare his boys as well as Mr. Sandbach, because a farmer employs his boys to feed his sheep and stock, and Mr. Sandbach employs men for that purpose. The boys who have been to school are more useful on the farms than those who have not; they are more intelligent. Wages for men are 7*s.* and their meat. In harvest a fresh agreement is made every week. This year one week the wages were 1*l.* 1*s.* and the meat, and 18*s.*, and 16*s.*, and 12*s.*, and 9*s.*, for the other weeks. They have not been as high as that for 20 years. The farmers and labourers fix the amount between them, and then cry it out in the street. They don't earn any extra money by piecework at other times of the year, except for special operations, such as draining. Women get 1*s.* a day. The boys who go into the farm houses are very well taken care of.

Women and children never have to go above 1½ miles, except in the case of the children to go to thin turnips.

[The children referred to above were paid 10*d.* or 14*d.* for turnip thinning, because some of them had to come 3½ miles, otherwise the ordinary wage for children of that age is 6*d.* or 8*d.* a day.]

26. *Mr. Barnwell*, schoolmaster, Llangerniew.—I have been here 17 years. The average attendance last year was 86, and there were 118 on the books during the last quarter. There are 86 present to-day [September 22nd]. At least two-thirds of the children who belong to the school are the sons of labourers. The fee is 2*d.* apiece for one or two children, and the remainder are admitted free. The sons of labourers attend school up to the age of 12 or 13; they seldom reach 13; boys leave before girls, and labourers' sons attend regularly longer than farmers' sons, although farmers' sons attend during a part of the year to a later age than labourers' sons. The latter, when they leave, leave once for all. Some of the children go away in the spring for picking stones and for planting potatoes. About one-third of the children may be absent on and off for about three weeks for that work. The potato planting is done either for the farmers or for the labourers to whom rows of potatoes are assigned. Most of the labourers' children are in the first class when they leave, and could pass in the fourth standard; some are in the second class, and could only pass the third standard. Only a few children can speak English when they come. I can only speak Welsh slightly. Welsh is only used for explanation; my wife, who teaches the lower classes, can speak it. Nine-tenths of the children are Dissenters, but all learn the Catechism; I have never had an objection from a parent to a child's learning that. There is a British school in another part of the parish. The attendance there is about as numerous as it is here; but that is a more populous neighbourhood than this. Some few children in this parish who live at too great a distance from the school don't attend long enough to enable them to acquire a useful education; but

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with that exception the state of education in the parish is satisfactory.

I had a night school for two years, nine attended, aged from 14 upwards. They were youths whose education had been entirely neglected. They were farmers' sons.

There are very few night schools in this neighbourhood in consequence of the scattered distribution of the population.

[This school was a very favourable specimen, owing to Mr. Sandbach, the principal landowner, being a zealous supporter of education.]

27. *H. R. Hughes, Esq.*, landowner, Ystrad, farms 300 acres of his own land; *J. Hewitson*, bailiff to Mr. Hughes.—Hewitson formerly had the superintendence of a farm of 500 acres at Bodfarry, Flint, about half a mile from Caerwys. That was a very large farm for that district. The holdings about here are generally 30 to 100 acres in extent. The farmers grow a good many potatoes. Women are a good deal employed at certain times of the year. In spring they are employed in weeding, and occasionally in some other small job, as assisting to thrash or sow; they are also employed in setting and raising potatoes, and in hay and harvest. There is very little for them to do after the potatoes are raised. They occasionally assist to thrash during winter, but do nothing else. Their wages are never less than 1*s.* a day, and from 10*s.* to 14*s.* a week during harvest. More boys were employed on the farm at Bodfarry than on any other in this neighbourhood. Those who came for work were seldom turned away. They were employed in singling turnips between the ages of 8 and 12. They were not employed for above two months in the year under the age of 12. Sometimes as many as 12 boys were employed together with one man to overlook them; they earned 6*d.* to 15*d.* a day; the man who overlooked them usually paid them their wages, but the work was not done by contract. The small farmers scarcely ever employ women or boys under 14, at which age they are able to take charge of horses. Men's wages are 13*s.* a week, and carters' 14*s.* Two horses only are used for ploughing in this neighbourhood, except occasionally when it is necessary to plough very deep. Boys are not generally employed with the horses in the stables. The small farmers generally "meat" their men. Perhaps a farmer of 50 acres will "meat" a man and a boy. A man receives about 7*s.* a week and his "*meat*," and boys receive about 2*l.* a year besides their board and lodging when they first take a place. Cottages are occasionally let with the farms, but not in sufficient numbers to supply the whole of the labour required by farmers. The cottages are generally let half-yearly at a rent of about 3*l.* a year; all have gardens. The supply of labour here is sufficient except just during harvest time. During harvest men and women occasionally have all allowed them, but that is exceptional. The drink of the country is buttermilk and water. The tops of the Clwydian hills are covered with heather; this land fetches a small rent, perhaps 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre. It is either let to the farmers who hold the adjoining land in the valleys, or a number of the farmers have the right of turning out cattle, &c. upon it, in which case it is frequently overstocked.

[Mr. Hughes, who knows this district well, thinks that this description applies to the whole of the vale of the Clwyd.]

28. *The Rev. Canon Thomas*, vicar of Llanrhaiadr.—Has been here 7 years, and before that lived at Carnarvon. I do not think that any evil, either moral or physical, arises to women from the work they do in the fields. I have never observed that the women who work in the fields are less respectable than those who do not.

The extent to which children are employed is described in Mr. Williams' [the parish schoolmaster] letter to me. All the work they do under the age of 12 to 14 is done for the parents and not for the farmers. They do nothing which is physically injurious to them. There are three schools (two Church and one British) in this parish. There are no inhabitants of this parish who have not a school within access of them. Every parish about here has a school. The Dissenters attend the Church school. We have a great many Dissenters in the Church schools. The parents never object to their children learning the Catechism. The parents are more and more anxious to secure education for their children, and wish to have them taught English, without which they find that they cannot get good places. I do not think that any Act is necessary to improve the education in this neighbourhood. Whatever evil exists will cure itself.

The occupations here are large (about 300 to 400) in the valleys, and much smaller on the hills.

The cottages are not as good as they should be, the rent is not very high, but the accommodation is insufficient. A good many of the cottagers occupy two or three acres of land with their cottages. I think they are more respectable and independent if they occupy a little land than if they do not.

I think that there are fewer obstacles to education in Carnarvonshire than there are here, and that the children are naturally quicker there than here.

I was vicar of Ruabon for three years. The employment of the children in connexion with the coal mines has a bad effect upon the education there, but very few are employed in agriculture.

29. The following is a copy of Mr. Williams' letter referred to by Mr. Thomas in the above statement:—

"Llanrhaiadr,

"Dear Sir, September 17, 1869.

"To comply with your wishes, I beg to state my humble opinion with regard to the effect the employment of children out of school has on their education. Children are sent to country schools generally at the age of 6. They attend pretty well (but not very regularly) till they reach the age of 9 or 10, during which period they attain a fair knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but not to such a degree as to be able to make but very little use of what they have learnt.

"Welsh children may at this age (9 or 10) be able to read fairly, but they cannot understand what they read; they may be able to work the first rules of arithmetic, but they cannot comprehend them so as to be able to apply them to common and domestic purposes; they may also be able to write a neat handwriting, but they cannot spell very well. This is both an important step in the education of children, and one that they cannot do without, and one also that would be most useful to them if they were regularly kept in school, but their parents begin to employ them at about this age (*i.e.*, 9 or 10), and continue to do so until they are taken from school at the age of from 12 to 14. They are kept at home to assist the parents in harrowing, hay and corn harvest, &c., &c. (girls employed in feeding pigs, milking cows, planting potatoes, raking hay and corn, weeding, &c.). Consequently the children cannot possibly progress, so that when they leave the school they have but a very slight knowledge of even the essential subjects; the bulk can only pass Standard III.; a few are able to pass Standards IV., V., and VI., and because they are not impressed upon their minds they soon forget what they have learnt; the only thing retained is a little of writing.

"This is the pitiable state of education of all country children (with the exception of a very few).

"Hoping you will have some satisfaction in the information I have given,

I remain, &c.

"The Rev. Canon Thomas." William Williams."

[There were 103 children on the books, and 64 in average attendance at this school.—F. H. N.]

30. *R. O. Moulslade, Esq.*, landowner, Bryndyffryn, Llanrwst.—There are no manufactures or quarries in this immediate neighbourhood. The occupations are small, about 50 to 100 acres; no peculiar crops are grown. Very little cheese is made; it answers better

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to make butter. Women are very little employed; a few are employed during harvest, and for hay-making, but they are not employed at all as a general rule at other times of the year.

No children are employed. Boys first go out to work at about the age of 12 to 14, when they obtain places in farmers' houses. The farmers always feed all the labourers necessary for the cultivation of their land. The married men received 8*s.* a week and their board, and the unmarried men 16*l.* to 20*l.* a year and their board and lodging. If a man is engaged by the week he receives 14*s.* a week and no food. At harvest a new agreement as to wages is made every Monday morning. There are central spots all about the district called "crosses," where employers and labourers meet together every Monday morning to agree as to wages. Boys are employed for a few weeks a year under the age of 12 for singling turnips, weeding, &c., but with the exception of those occasional occupations there is nothing to prevent their remaining at school regularly up to the age of 12 at lowest. This district is very well provided with schools. I am unable to point to any spots in this neighbourhood which are out of reach of a school. The attendance is generally good. There are a few indifferent parents who never send their children, but with the exception of those the education of the young is not defective. There are a few scattered cottages on the mountains, but almost all are within reach of a school. The wages are high in this neighbourhood in consequence of its being near quarries. There is a great deal of work to be done in quarries which anybody can do, although the skilled quarryman must be brought up to it from his childhood.

The cottage accommodation in the neighbourhood is very fair. The cottages belong chiefly to the landlords, and are not crowded, but are, in most cases, let with farms. Rent about 2*l.* to 3*l.*, with gardens. There is not much waste land about here. Coals cost about 14*s.* a ton.

It is not customary for the farmers to allow potato ground to their men. The mountains above the cultivated land are let in large tracts as sheep walks. The farmers who take these farms never employ women and children; they only require shepherds.

31. *Rev. R. O. Hughes,* rector of Lysfaen.—My parish is very small, only about 1,500 acres, but the population is between 800 and 900. There are some quarries in the parish, where most of the population are employed. The land is chiefly arable, but there are about 300 acres of common land. The majority of the farms are under 50 acres. Women are not employed in agriculture except for a few days during harvest, and children are never employed except occasionally for a few days during harvest, and occasionally for turnip thinning. The farms are so small that almost all the work is done by the farmer and his family. Occasionally a boy is hired by the year by a farmer, but never under 12 years of age. These boys are well fed; they dine with their employers.

We have no school; there never was one in my parish, but we are on the point of building one. There is no school in any adjoining parish within a convenient distance. I don't suppose one-fourth of the children in my parish attend school. There is a great desire for education among the people; they are pressing for a school, although there are numerous instances of indifference in the matter.

We have plenty of cottages. A large proportion of cottages in my parish belong to the Crown (the lord of the manor), who let them to the occupiers in consideration of their keeping them in repair. They are not crowded, *i.e.*, they are only inhabited by the one family each, but the family may occasionally be large. The rent is, I think, about 1*l.* a year. The cottages consist of one, and sometimes two bedrooms, and one sitting room. Most have gardens. The labourers have not to go a great distance to their work.

I have had experience in a great many parishes in North Wales, and I feel sure that there are a great many families who are very indifferent about education, and I feel sure that education will never be generally successful until it is made compulsory. Compulsory education would, I think, be a great blessing to the country.

32. *Mr. Wm. Jones,* Plas Newydd, Ruabon.—I have been agent to Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., at Wynnstay, for six years. I have lived in Flintshire for above 30 years. The population here is mainly engaged in mining.

The farms are generally small; the number which contain less than 100 acres is greater than the number which contain more than that amount. Rather more than one-third of the district is grass, exclusive of the mountains, which are either let to particular farmers as sheep-walks, or in some cases several proprietors have the right of pasturage on particular mountains in common. This is the case with the mountains in the south of Denbighshire, of which Sir Watkin is lord of the manor. Sir Watkin has farms in the neighbourhood containing only 12, 20, 34, 35, 36, 41, and 43 acres respectively. None of the men occupying these small amounts of land ever go to work as labourers. I myself think many of them would be better off if they worked as regular day labourers; but they think that they acquire an independence by occupying small holdings which they would have to sacrifice if they gave them up. The larger occupiers (of 70 acres and upwards) make cheese, but the remainder depend on growing corn and making butter. The general rule is for the farmers to board their labourers; but the smaller farmers don't hire any men except during the summer months, from about April to October. The rest of the year they do all the work in their farms themselves and their families. You will scarcely see a woman at work on a farm at any time of the year. The wives and daughters of small occupiers assist to milk cows, &c. and work a little during the haytime and harvest; but it is quite exceptional for a farmer ever *to engage* a woman to work for him for wages. Boys are occasionally engaged by the year from about 14 and upwards. Perhaps there would be one boy on every farm of over 50 acres. His work would probably be to fetch and drive the cows and do odd jobs about the yard. You don't see any boys at work at particular times of the year under that age; little boys are useful in the turnip season, but they don't take to farm work; they prefer going to the works in the neighbourhood; the supply of labour now is sufficient, though we were short some time ago. The ordinary wages are 12*s.* for an ordinary labourer, and 13*s.* for a carter. Where the man is engaged by the year he gets 6*s.* a week and his keep during the winter months, and 8*s.* and his keep during the summer, from April to October. There are no hiring fairs here, but there are stated seasons for hiring. The hiring is generally for the year beginning in May. In the better class farms a waggoner would get about 20*l.* a year, and an ordinary man about 16*l.* These yearly servants are not generally married. When they do marry they generally become weekly labourers. The boys get about 3*l.* or 4*l.* a year when about 14 years of age.

The cottages are generally very much overcrowded. They generally have two bedrooms, and belong mainly to the landowners. As a rule the cottages are not let with the farms. The rent ranges from 2*l.* to 5*l.* Those which are in the country always have gardens attached to them, about one-eighth of an acre each, and some of them which are situated in Ruabon have pieces of land assigned to them outside the town. We have also a few small holdings of about two acres each, sufficient in amount to afford keep for a cow. Those men work as labourers, and a good many are colliers. Where the man is industrious I think it a great assistance to his family to hold two or three acres of *grass* land, but I would prefer letting a small amount (say three acres) to letting as much as 15 acres to one man, because the latter amount would prevent his working as a day labourer. These

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small holdings are let at the ordinary rent for agricultural land.

The school accommodation is fairly sufficient in this neighbourhood; and if the children are uneducated it is entirely owing to the neglect of the parents. I am pretty well acquainted with Denbighshire and Flintshire, and I don't know any place in those counties in which young boys are employed in agriculture. I found that where cottages were let with the farms the farmers generally sub-let them at an increased rent.

33. *The Rev. H. Humphreys*, curate of Ruabon.—I have been here two years. There are three schools (girls, boys, and infants) in the town, and two outlying schools in this parish. The town schools are attended mainly by the miners' and tradesmen's children. But one of the outlying schools is attended entirely by the agricultural labourers' children.

I don't think that children are employed in agricultural labour in this district at so early an age as to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory education. I lived formerly near Ruthin, in the vale of Clwyd, and the same observation, with respect to the age at which children begin to work, is applicable to that district as to this. I don't think that children are employed at as early an age in the vale of Clwyd as they formerly were. Women are not much employed in the fields, and I have not observed that those women who are so employed are injured by the work they do, or that their cottages and families are less well cared for than those of other women. I have observed that *young* women, when so engaged, are exposed to immoral influences; but young women seldom are so employed. Women are more employed on Mr. Hardcastle's estate than elsewhere. I don't think it necessary to apply the Factory Acts to the agricultural population in this neighbourhood for the purpose of improving the education.

I think the cottages in which the agricultural population live are generally sufficiently commodious. At one place in this parish there are about a dozen very bad mud huts built by the people themselves on the mountain, and inhabited by a population of about 100 miners and agricultural labourers who never send their children to school, but with that exception the cottages are tolerably good.

34. *Mrs. Millington*, Pen-y-lan school, Ruabon.—This school is supported entirely by Mr. Hardcastle. It is a mixed school. The children pay 1*d.* a week. There are 42 on the books now [October]. I generally have about that number in winter, and about 20 to 25 on the books in summer. I have about 30 to 35 in ordinary attendance during winter, and during the summer the number sometimes falls as low as five. They are all the children of labourers in the employment of Mr. Hardcastle. They come at the age of 3 and stay until 10 and 12. Their attendance is not very regular up to that age. I don't see many of them after they pass 10. Children of all ages (girls and boys) are employed for potato planting, haymaking, corn minding, acorn picking, weeding, and stone-picking. The children don't go away to gather the potatoes themselves, but sometimes stay at home to mind the house when their parents are so engaged. The parents think they have done very well if they leave the children here until the age of about 11 or 12; many boys don't stay as long as that. The girls generally stay at school until they get a place. I don't think there are any children within reach of the school who don't attend. The ladies make them come. Most of those who have left lately have known the first four rules of arithmetic simply, and could write a letter. But they were very backward when I came, and are much more forward now than they were.

The obstacle to education is rather the irregularity of the attendance than the early withdrawals. The parents are ignorant themselves; they don't appear to interest themselves in the progress of their children, and don't know the importance of regular attendance.

35. *Mr. R. C. Roberts*, surgeon, Ruabon.—I have lived here all my life, and have practised in the parish about 30 years, and have been parish doctor above 20. Women are very seldom employed in the fields. The only women I ever see at work are the women who are employed, as an act of charity, by Sir Watkin Wynn, sweeping up leaves in the park. I never see very young children at work. They always plough with a pair of horses and reins about here. I am confident that neither women or children are employed in any work which is injurious to them. A short time ago a boy of 14 was killed when at work with a threshing machine; he went upon the part of the machine where he should not have been, and was warned several times; that is the only accident I ever recollect occurring with a threshing machine to a boy.

The cottages are tolerably commodious. They generally have only one bedroom, but many have two. Mr. Hardcastle's and Sir Watkin's cottages are very good. Generally built of stone, and slated or thatched. Most of them have an upper floor. There are many freeholds here among the mining population, but not among the agricultural. I cannot often trace illness to insufficient cottage accommodation. I know of no cottages without separate bedrooms. I think that the young men who are boarded in the farmers' houses are sufficiently well provided for. The people live chiefly on bread, potatoes, oatmeal porridge, and buttermilk. They don't eat much meat, but have a little bacon, and are generally healthy and ablebodied. A good many Staffordshire and Lancashire men come to work in the mines here; but I am inclined to think that the Welsh are stronger than these Englishmen.

36. *Mr. James Maurice*, Ruthin.—In this neighbourhood boys are not employed earlier than 12 or 13. Girls are employed in household work generally. Women are occasionally employed in the turnip and potato season, and generally work for 12 hours a day. It would be desirable for boys to remain longer at school than they do, but legislation is scarcely needed in this part of the country. It is not desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females in agriculture in these parts.

There are National and British and village schools. For the most part advantage is taken of the schools; when not taken the parents are to be blamed.

The condition of the cottage accommodation in this neighbourhood is bad. There are not sufficient for the supply of the labour required. The situation with respect to the farms varies. They are overcrowded, and without naming specific cases the general tendency is to immorality. They are fairly supplied with water. Ventilation is obtained by the door. There are no allotments, but they generally have gardens.

37. *Mr. E. I. Jones*, schoolmaster, National school, Ruthin.—I have been here 2½ years. There were 305 children on the books last year, and the average attendance was 205·7. More than one-half of those in the school are agricultural children; 203 attended 200 times each. The agricultural children remain at school up to the age of 13; very few leave before they get into the first class. The first class work in the fourth, fifth, and sixth standards; but the agricultural children cannot generally work higher than the fourth. The sons of labourers are less regular in their attendance than farmers' sons. The year before last the average attendance was 113, and the year before that 76. Nearly all the children in this school are the children of Dissenters. I always ask the parents when the children are admitted whether they object to their learning the Catechism; very few do object. There are a great many children growing up about here without education; quite as many do not attend school as those who do; they are simply indifferent about the matter.

[The accuracy of this statement about the great number of children who were absent from school was doubted by two or three other gentlemen to whom I spoke on this subject.]

38. *Mr. Joseph David Jones.*—Was schoolmaster of the British school, Ruthin, for 14 years. Gave it up four years ago. About 260 boys and girls attended that school, and about one-half of those were

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the children of agricultural labourers. I think that during the last four or five years that I had charge of that school the labourers' sons remained at school up to the age of 12 on an average. They both came and left rather earlier when I left than when I came. Most of them were in the second class when they left. The charges were regulated according to the position of the parents; labourers' sons paid 1*d.* a week. They could pass when they left what was equivalent to the fifth standard, besides having some knowledge of geography and grammar. I never allowed the boys to be absent without asking my leave. I dismissed them if they were. I found that there was a sufficient desire for education to prevent them incurring the risk of dismissal. There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of the labourers. The girls left at about the same age as the boys. They were very regular in their attendance. I do not think it desirable that boys should go to work under 14; but I don't think they are wronged as things are at present, and that it is unnecessary to place any restriction upon the age at which they should be permitted to work. There are not many night schools about here; but great importance is attached to Sunday schools. The adults, both male and female, attend.

FLINTSHIRE.

Flintshire.

89. *J. Scott Bankes, Esq.*, Loughton Hall, Northop.—I have lived here 10 years. I farm about 200 acres of my own land. The holdings are small, under 70 acres rather than over. As a general rule the farmers board all the labourers whom they employ, but they employ very few men, because many of them are little better than working men themselves, and there are times of the year when a man and his son can do all the work on a farm of 50 or 60 acres.

There is no regular employment for women. In fact the women are hardly ever employed by the farmers at all; but it is the custom for the farmers and landowners to let land for potatoes in small amounts to anybody who likes to take it at the rate of 7*l.* 10*s.* an acre. This is generally accommodation land near the towns and villages. About a quarter to half an acre is let to each man. The lessor cultivates and manures the land, and the lessee plants and gets up the potatoes. Both women and children work in planting and getting up the potatoes on these plots of ground; they are generally members of the lessee's own family and are not *employed* for wages. But with the exception of that work these women scarcely ever work in the fields. Here they are not disposed to work. I should have great difficulty in getting six or seven women to work if I wanted them.

Boys are not employed as a general rule until they are 16 or 17 years old, except when they work for their own families as above described. Some jobs, such as singling turnips, are sometimes done by men by the piece, but they do not bring children to assist them.

The holdings are so small that the occupiers don't like to spend money in wages and do all they can themselves.

There is no agricultural labour for children except the potato work above mentioned to prevent them attending school as a general rule up to the age of 13 or 14.

The wages for day labourers are 14*s.* a week if hired regularly, and 15*s.* if hired for an occasional job. They have extra money for harvest. I give 1*l.* extra for each harvest, but I suppose the farmers give piecework. They have no allowances, and earn no extra money except in harvest.

I think the supply of cottages is sufficient; but this is a great mining district, and the number of people employed in the mines is constantly changing, so that although generally the cottages are sufficient if new mines were to be opened more might be required. Many belong to the landowners, and most of them have small gardens, but there are many freeholds belonging chiefly to men who have made money in trade. These are to be found mainly in the towns.

The accommodation is generally sufficient; they all have separate sleeping and living rooms, and I myself am building all mine with three bedrooms. The lowest rent is, I think, 3*l.* for the ordinary class, and more if three bedrooms.

The supply of schools is, I think, sufficient. I know of no district where there is any population, except perhaps isolated cottages, which is not supplied with school accommodation. If the people are not educated it must be owing to their own carelessness.

I don't think there is any district within eight or nine miles of this place in which women and children are employed to a greater extent than I have described above.

40. *Charles R. Cotton, Esq.*, Knolton Hall, Overton.—I have lived here for 12 years, and am well acquainted with this portion of Flintshire (the hundred of Maelor). I formerly occupied a farm of about 250 acres near Wrexham. There are no mines or manufactures here, but there are in the neighbourhood of Wrexham. The agricultural condition of this district is very similar to that of Wrexham. The proportion of grass to arable is above half. The farms vary from 150 to 250 acres in extent; they are almost all dairy farms, although some of these have been broken up in consequence of the cattle plague. Every dairy farmer has a certain proportion of arable, and grows corn as well as stores for the cattle. No peculiar crops are grown here. Both men and women are employed for milking, but men rather than women. There is no employment for young children. The farmers let small portions of land to the labourers, amounting to one-quarter or one-eighth acre to each family at 2*s.* 6*d.* a rood. The farmer prepares the land, and the occupier grows potatoes upon it, and employs children to plant and gather them. The farmers always plough with two horses, and do not require boys to drive. They do not grow potatoes as a crop themselves. The cottages are not usually let with the farms; they are generally scattered about the country, but some of the principal landlords are now pulling down the scattered cottages and rebuilding them in the villages. The rent is about 4*l.* with a small garden. Wages are 11*s.* a week, or 12*s.* a week if the man has to come on Sundays. Women are very seldom employed, but when they are they have 1*s.* a day, and more in harvest. I think the supply of school accommodation in this district is sufficient; few have to go as much as two miles to a school, and attend well during summer. There are a great many dissenters, and there is no difficulty in securing their attendance at school. The parents never object to sending them on account of the religious instruction which is given.

41. *Mr. J. Dawson*, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, Talacre.—I have lived here for above 30 years, and am well acquainted with all the country between this place and Holywell, Caerwys, and Rhyl. The farms are of all sizes from 10 to 500 acres. About one-third is grass. No peculiar crops are grown; turnips, wheat, and beans are the ordinary crops

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along the coast. Higher up the hills the land is more adapted for turnips, barley, and oats. Some of the larger farms make cheese, but more in the vale of Clwyd than here. Just here no women are employed, but towards Rhyl on one side, and Holywell on the other, some of the farmers do employ some few occasionally, never in winter. Children are employed for singling and weeding turnips in May and June. They are not employed under 12 to 15 for that work. They are employed by the farmers. They are also employed for picking potatoes. The boys are generally of from 12 to 15 years of age when they commence regular work, but more are required in the weeding and potato picking times than at others. Ploughing is chiefly done with two horses, occasionally four when we want to plough deep. I don't think that farmers require boys about here under 14; and that they make quite as good labourers if they begin to work at that age as if they began earlier. The boys are not generally boarded in the farm houses; occasionally they are, but very seldom. Men's ordinary wages are 12*s.* a week, and carters have 13*s.* During harvest it is customary to make a new bargain with the men every Monday for the current week. Last harvest my wages amounted to 14*s.*, 15*s.*, 17*s.*, 17*s.*, and 13*s.* 6*d.* a week for the five harvest weeks, besides 5*s.* a week extra for "*meat*," which some of the farmers allow, but I prefer to pay in money at 5*s.* a week. The women have 1*s.* a day and boys about from 2*s.* to 3*s.* at first. Not much piecework is done except at harvest. I do not hoe turnips by the piece, but some do. The population in this neighbourhood is chiefly collected in villages. Sir P. Mostyn lets some few cottages with the farms, but not many.

The supply of schools is generally sufficient; there is only one district in this neighbourhood which is destitute of school accommodation, and a school is about to be built there.

Cottages let generally for about 3*l.* per annum; they all have a small garden. Some of the cottagers hold two or three acres of land, generally in grass, on which they keep a cow. That does not prevent the man working as a labourer, because his wife generally looks after the cow.

42. *Mr. E. Tench*, Wrexham.—I was agent to Sir W. W. Wynn at Wynnstay for about 20 years. I don't think that there are many occupiers of such small amounts of land in this neighbourhood that they would be better off as day labourers. It is quite true that many of them don't live better than labourers, but in comparing their condition with that of labourers the fact that they are under less control must be taken into consideration, and the price at which they value this independence must be set off against the possibly rather better living of the labourer.

I think it would be a public loss to interfere with the great variety in the extent of the holdings in this neighbourhood. It is desirable to enable men to rise by gradual steps from the condition of labourers to that of farmers. I have now the management of the properties of Mr. T. L. Fitzhugh, Mr. S. Yorke, and Capt. Godfry in this neighbourhood.

A few women are engaged by farmers, and employed principally in preparing the land for green crops and in making hay, and to a less extent at other times of the year; but I don't think that the employment of women is attended by any bad results to themselves, although their families sometimes suffer, and the house is less comfortable than it otherwise would be. It would be desirable not to employ women with families, although it is a charity to employ widows. I have not observed that the employment of women leads to immorality. Women receive 1*s.* a day. I think some of the strong lads are employed under 14, at perhaps the age of 13. I am now giving my labourers 13*s.* a week, and carters 14*s.* The yearly servants never have piecework, but employers who hire by the week give piecework to do at harvest, and some of them pay an additional 1*l.* or 22*s.* for the harvest in lieu of piecework. The piecework here is almost confined to mowing, reaping, laying hedges, and a little turnip hoeing.

I don't think you will find many cottages here with two bedrooms, most have only one. I don't think that the gardens of agricultural labourers contain more than from 8 to 16 perches each. The cottages are very much overcrowded, but I don't see that they can be improved by law; I should rather trust to the effect of education to improve them. The farmers about here generally cultivate land for their labourers to grow potatoes on. The farmers prepare the land and draw the labourers' manure, and the labourers plant and get up the potatoes, and pay 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* for a rood of 8 square yards. Scarcely anything except potatoes and onions are grown in the gardens.

I don't think it necessary that the Factory Acts should be applied to the agricultural population. Neither women or children are employed in unhealthy employments in the fields, and I think that sufficient progress in education is likely to be attained by voluntary efforts.

With the above observations I agree with Mr. W. Jones' statement [No. 32].

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EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. CULLEY'S REPORT on the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

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APPENDIX A.—CONTAINING EVIDENCE APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

1. ANSWERS to COMMISSIONERS' CIRCULAR of INQUIRY, given by MR. T. T. MOUSLEY, Agent to the Earl of Cawdor, &c.

As to the Employment of Children, &c.

"There is a general disposition throughout the two counties (Pembroke and Carmarthen) to send boys out to farm-work, to earn a little money in aid of their parents, either as regular farm-house servants or to tend cattle, &c. at a very early age (say 9 or 10), and too often they are taken for this purpose from a good school before they have learnt more than to read and write. This is often a necessity where there is a large family, owing to the low wages earned by the father (10*s.* to 12*s.* a week). If children could as a rule be kept at school until they are 12 or 13, and afterwards by some means be prevented losing all they had up to that time learnt, no doubt a higher standard of education amongst the labouring class would soon be the result; the difficulties however of compulsory education are doubtless very formidable.

"Girls are forced from their homes very much in the same way as boys, and almost as early in life. They generally do most of the rough out-door work, as well as in-door work, connected with the management of cattle. It is too much the rule on the part of employers, I am sorry to say, to pay but little attention to the moral condition of these servant girls. They lose their characters to a deplorable extent and become mothers at a very early age. The insufficient size and convenience of the Welsh farm-houses is one of the causes of this disgraceful state of things."

Employment of Women.

"Women are generally employed in farm labour, which need be no hardship, if it is not compulsory. In some districts (though I believe not extensive) the labourer's wife is bound to give a certain amount of labour to her husband's employer. This may be made a great hardship and ought to be discouraged."

Farm Employment generally.

"In Welsh farming it is not the habit to employ many day labourers. The work is chiefly done by young men who live in the house, and by members of the farmer's family. This deficiency of labour may be partly attributed to the want of good comfortable cottages, partly to the absence of capital and enterprise on the part of the Welsh farmer class."

Hours of Work.

"From 6 to 6, I believe is the rule, and when this is required of women, I think it is a hardship. To commence work at 8 a.m., and finish at 5 or 5½ p.m., except in harvest, are long enough hours for a woman who has domestic duties to perform."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be employed.

"I think no restriction is necessary in these counties as the occupation is generally healthy."

As to Supply of Schools, &c.

"Most neighbourhoods are well supplied with schools, but unfortunately in the thinly populated agricultural districts they must be few and far between, so far that little children have a sufficient reason for being kept from school. Many parents are very indifferent to the advantages of an early education for their children, forgetting that if they miss the first few years of their lives, they are not likely to have leisure for education in after life. Teaching of the English language is now very general; and the increasing knowledge of it is remarkable."

State of Cottages, &c.

"The state of cottages throughout the country is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultural interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, and convenience of the occupiers; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy floors and walls, the former often of earth. Frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor and no upper rooms; overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door."

How Cottages may be supplied.

"For the benefit of farmers, the building of good commodious cottages need not be a bad investment for the landlord, as he might, supposing his cottage cost 100*l.*, charge say 5*l.* per annum to his farm tenant, who would recover the greater part by weekly or monthly rent from his labourer, who should never be required to pay more than about 3*l.* per annum, unless he happened to have an unusually good house, or more garden ground than is really necessary. All cottages should have a good sized garden and a pigstye."

"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales are the want of capital, and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small, and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend upon. Landlords ought by degrees to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small farmsteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise.

"If they do not the country must remain as at present, very little in advance of a state of nature as regards farming."

Statute Fairs.

"The system of hiring farm servants at the statute fairs is one of the greatest curses to the country, and a general system of engaging them only by their producing a good character from the last employer ought to be established. This would encourage good servants and deter bad ones, and operate much to the advantage of employers.

"Welsh children are generally healthy, quick, and apt to learn."

2. *The Venerable Archdeacon Clark*, in answering a circular of inquiry as applicable to the archdeaconry of St. David's, which is very nearly co-extensive with the county of Pembroke, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed (more pastoral than arable). In my own neighbourhood there are extensive oak woods in the parishes of Narbeth, Robeston, Newton, Minwere, and Slebech, which afford occupation to a large proportion of the neighbouring population."

Employment of Boys and Girls.

"In my own experience there is not much employment for boys under 14 or 15, except during the season for "pilling" in the oak woods. Girls are similarly employed from 12 or 14 upwards, their business being to assist their elders in the work of barking and stacking bark."

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

o.

Employment of Women.

"Besides the employment in woods, a good many women are employed in field work throughout the county, but not in my own immediate neighbourhood."

Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land, &c.?

"If this question refers only to my own neighbourhood and its needs no restriction as to age is required, there is no reason why boys should not attend school during the greater part of the year, if their parents would send them.

"But, from what I have observed elsewhere, in England, I think it would be desirable to protect boys under 14 by requiring them to attend half a day at school, as a condition of employment in farm work.

"The above answer would apply also to restrictions on female labour."

Schools.

"The school attendance throughout the archdeaconry is generally good, where there are schools conveniently near. I think, that when children do not attend school, the cause is chiefly the indifference and neglect of parents.

"I enclose a tabular return for the archdeaconry."

Condition of Cottages.

"The cottages generally throughout the county are not good; small, ill-ventilated, with plaster or flagged floors, and with only two rooms on the ground floor, the upper rooms (if any) being dark lofts or attics under the roof, not fit for occupation. There are, I think, not enough for the supply of labour required. They are generally too small for even a small family, and therefore over-crowded, and the usual results to morality have followed. The cottagers generally have to go to the village well, or stream, or ditch, for water, and few cottages have decent privies.

"The condition of the cottages may be mainly owing to the exceedingly low rents which the agricultural labourer is willing or able to pay. The usual rent of a cottage and garden in Pembrokeshire is 50*s.* a year."

Do you consider the state of the agricultural labouring class in Pembrokeshire generally satisfactory?

"*Morally*, no; there is a great deal of drunkenness, and immorality and improvidence. Bastardy is common, unchastity, in the youth of both sexes, the rule rather than the exception. This greatly owing to the conditions under which the farm lads and servant girls are hired (at fairs without a character very commonly), and to the excessive liberty allowed them when in service.

"Very few of the farm labourers save anything out of their wages. They live generally from hand to mouth, and have no provision for a 'rainy day.' If I except the payment made to and received from the benefit club in sickness, the labouring man seldom thinks of laying by anything.

"In many respects the labouring class in Pembrokeshire are well off. They are clothed comfortably and well fed; the wages being generally (I believe) 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week. The population is not excessive, perhaps the reverse; it is diminishing in the rural districts, and there is generally no lack of employment."

3. Copy of a letter addressed to George Culley, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, by the Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister, Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

Dear Sir, Narberth, Aug. 2, 1869.

Having a tolerably good knowledge of the county of Pembroke (especially the Welsh part of it), I shall not confine my answers to your questions to one district, but endeavour to answer them as applicable to the county generally.

Field labour of women and children.

In pastoral districts the labour of *extra* women and young persons is not much wanted, except for a few weeks in harvest and about turnips and potatoes.

In corn-growing districts women and young persons are more employed in the fields, working out for months in the year.

The hours of labour are usually 12 hours, with a little interval for dinner.

Wages.

Wages are very low. Women at harvesting get 1*s.* a day, and 8*d.* a day (finding their own board) at the green crops. Children from 10 to 15 years of age get half a woman's wage. They have not far to walk generally, as the cottages and villages are pretty numerous.

Cottages.

The state of the labourers' cottages generally is very bad; badly constructed; one floor, and *one* room on that floor, partly divided by some article of furniture; damp walls; earth floors; smoky chimneys; a small window or two, often no more than a square foot, and never opened, the only ventilation being by the door or chimney; no out-offices or any accommodation whatever.

In such a cottage, where a family of six or eight are huddled together, it is impossible to inculcate that *decency* and modesty which is the chief ornament of a woman. There is of necessity such familiarity growing up between the sexes as is very subversive of true propriety. This want of proper home accommodation vitiates their tastes and lays them more open to moral corruption and sensuality. Hence, with their custom of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, and hay-lofts, &c., entirely removed from the control of the master, from whence they prowl about in the night, about neighbours' houses, seeking and obtaining intercourse with the girls through the night, arise the many cases of bastardy which we hear of in the county. A sad subject to mention, and a delicate one to treat.

Remedy.

I would suggest a cottage inspection instituted *authoritatively* in every parish or district, and that no cottage be allowed to be inhabited unless it be *certified;* something similar to the Board of Health regulations in towns.

Education in rural districts is very backward through two or three causes.

1st. In many localities schools are very far from the children, two, three, or four miles perhaps. The schools are generally located near some church or chapel, without any regard to the distance of one school from another. According to the present system of Government aid, the most active (and able perhaps too) of the religious bodies will get up a school in connection (locally so) with their place of worship, which will be partly supported by Government aid; and we not unfrequently find three or four such schools within a radius of as many miles, while one or two would meet the requirements of the district if properly located.

If a general educational system were adopted by Government, regard should be had to *distance* and *population*, and not, as at present, assisting individuals to gratify their whims (or perhaps spite a rival), and thus waste their energies and the *public money* without rendering equivalent service to the public.

2nd. The present educational appliances are not made use of as they might be for the following reasons:—

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(*a.*) The great poverty of the agricultural labourers, whose earnings amount to 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week (on their own board) for the year round, with the exception of a month or so during harvest, when they get 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; out of such a pittance it is impossible that they can pay much for the education of their children, and many are kept at home because the parents cannot provide proper clothing in which to send them to school.

(*b.*) The want of appreciation of education on the part of the parents, where the school is free, or others pay for their children. The parents being uneducated themselves do not sufficiently appreciate education for their children, and from this cause many children in the rural districts are uneducated.

Along the sea coast most of the boys go to sea as ship apprentices, between the ages of 12 and 15, whether educated or not. Here, perhaps, some wholesome restraint might be put upon shipowners, such as the necessity of obtaining a certificate that a boy can read and write before they take him on board.

All these causes combined by a natural course of events tend to demoralization, and in the end to augment the poors' rate, which is becoming oppressively heavy, especially in Pembrokeshire, where there is scarcely any employment for a man who is past the prime of life; employers will choose younger men, and the old, before they are past service, are cast upon *their estate, the parish.*

A more equally distributed means of education, *free and unsectarian*, and some *compulsion* on landowners to provide a better class of cottages, would, in my opinion, tend to promote morality, health, and happiness in the country.

I have the honour to be
Your most obedient servant,
WM. OWEN.

4. *Mr. C. Bishop*, landowner and Clerk of the Peace for Carmarthenshire, speaking of the county generally, says:—

"The cultivation is much varied. In parts tillage prevails; but on the whole the largest portion is pasture for sheep and young cattle.

"*The sons of labourers and small farmers* generally go out to farm service at 13 or 14, according to their age and strength, and reside with their employers all the year round.

"*Girls* also go out to service generally at 13 or 14, when they become dairymaids, and in the smaller farms they, at seed and harvest times, assist in the cultivation of the land.

"Except in harvest time and the oak barking season *women* are not much employed. They, however, assist in hoeing potatoes, turnips, &c., where they are grown.

"I am not aware that any evil results, at all events in this county, arise from the employment of either boys or girls on the land; but on the contrary, I think that generally speaking when taken to a farm they get better fed, and so benefit by being employed on a farm as early as they can be useful, and a limit, unless education be compulsory, would be injurious."

"I should say also that as regards this county a limit in the case of females would also be injurious. There are none of the evils, &c., of hop picking, &c., in this county. If it be considered *necessary* that all should be educated to a certain extent, then of course a limit must be placed."

Schools.

"In most parts of the county, except in remote localities, there are either National or British schools within reach, and the labouring class is not indisposed to take advantage of them; still, when the children are able to undertake employment, and can obtain it, the parents will not lose the chance for the sake of schooling."

Cottages.

"The condition of the old cottages and the smaller farmhouses is not conducive to health. They are small and badly ventilated, but a great desire for improved dwellings prevails, and at present a better class of cottage and small farmhouse is being built. Of course where the family is large the cottage will be overcrowded; but in this county the dwellings are scattered, and no great evil results."

Cottage Gardens.

"Most cottages, especially in the country, and indeed in the smaller towns and villages, have gardens attached to them, but I do not think that the allotment system of gardens prevails."

Labourers and small Farmers.

"In my opinion the labourer with constant work is better off, and enabled to command more of the necessary comforts of life than the small farmer who pays from 10*l.* to 20*l.* a year for rent, and who lives harder than the inmates of the workhouse."

5. Children of small farmers in Pembrokeshire by *Mr. H. P. Goode*, land agent, &c.:—

The farmers generally do not employ children under 14 or 15 years of age; when they do, their work is attending to cattle and sheep and light farm work generally.

The smaller farms, whose tenants occupy from 5 to 100 acres, of which there are a great number in this country, employ their own children, both boys and girls, at a very early age to look after their cows, watch over their crops to keep off birds, watch their bees, and the little girls do the house work, whilst ther parents are employed in the fields. They are generally a very industrious race; and when the girls and boys come up to 14, 15, or 16 years they go to service, some to farms, others to families. Girls as nursemaids, under housemaids, and maids of all work to small establishments; they carry with them their industrious habits, and in good considerate families they make first rate servants.

The children of labourers are not generally half so useful, they spend their early years up to 10 very idly and acquire slothful habits, and are drafted off as soon as work can be got for them; they do not make such useful servants as the others, and often prove very worthless and deceitful, which can only be accounted for by their early training.

The children of the small farmers have to rise early, do a morning's work before school hours, and often return and assist their parents about the farm work.

6. *Mr. J. L. Phillips*, owner, occupier, and chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, answering for the union, says:—

"*The cultivation* is chiefly corn and grass, very few green crops are grown: this will explain why children are so little in demand at an early age; at harvest time small children give a little help, but they have no work to task their strength, or requiring skill, or continuous exertion.

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years of age; when of that age they go to service for one year certain at low wages, and are boarded and lodged at the farmer's expense.

"*Girls* are employed as under dairymaids and in the general working on a farm, and the nature of their employment depends on the kind of farming practised; if green crops are cultivated, besides attending to the dairy, girls go out to weed turnips, haymaking, corn harvesting, &c.

"*Women* do all the work necessary upon a farm in common with the men, except ploughing, carting, spading, and hard work on a farm generally considered too heavy and laborious for females."

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

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Hours of Work.

"Labourers generally work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Hired men generally work from 6 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m.

"Women get up at 5 a.m. to milk, &c., and continue till about bedtime (9 o'clock) to serve in the general duties expected on a small farm.

"I really do not think any restriction whatever is necessary as to the employment of children in farm labour."

Schools.

"We have almost in every parish National schools under the control of the clergyman, or in connexion with the chapels of dissenters. Generally advantage is taken of the means of instruction. Where three or four children of the same poor parents go to school sometimes, 2*d.* or 3*d.* ahead is felt a heavy charge on small wages. No shoes or no clothes fit to go to school in is often the excuse to keep children at home."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is very bad generally: they are generally sufficiently numerous where farmers will give winter labour to men, but the practice is to hire young men by the year, and when they marry they leave the neighbourhood and go to the mining districts."

Gardens and Potato Ground.

"Most of the cottages have small gardens, and in addition it is very common for labourers to have potato ground where they work, or to give work in harvest in return for potato ground, the labourer finding the potato seed only and weeding the ground."

Rate of Wages and Feeding.

"*Men's* wages vary according to the locality; when near a town, or in coal, lime, or manufacturing districts, wages are higher, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week; 9*s.* in the more rural parts, or 1*s.* a day and food.

"*Women* earn 6*d.*, 8*d.*, and 9*d.* a day, working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. In harvest time they make 10*d.*, 1*s.*, and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day. Men and women live alike when on the farmer's finding.

"Breakfast, a 'broth' made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes, and a piece of bacon or roof beef, or milk and wash-brew, or coffee and bread and butter. Dinner, 'the broth;' tea seldom; supper, 'the broth.' When on their own keep they have the three first meals, tea or coffee, and for supper, the broth."

Llandovery Union.

Population, 14,775 - Acreage, 154,572.

7. *Mr. G. Jones*, landowner and occupier, and Vice-chairman of Board of Guardians, answering for the union, says:—

"*Boys* are employed, from 12 years old, chiefly in spring and summer.

"*Girls* are seldom employed, except as nurses.

"The employment of *women* is very limited, except in harvest and the barking season.

"*Women* work from 9 till 6.

"It is decidedly not desirable to place restrictions on youthful labour."

Schools

"In every parish there is a school, in many two or three, of which the labouring class are always ready to avail themselves."

State of Cottages.

"Very deficient in accommodation with reference to the separation of the sexes, otherwise they are very comfortable, especially the old-fashioned ones. Most of them have large gardens."

Wages and Mode of Hiring.

"Labourers receive from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week if employed all the year round, but during harvest the wages are much higher. Farmers generaliy hire servants by the year, paying, with keep, from 14*l.* to 20*l.*, when they can afford to keep servants, but the holdings are so small such is not generally the case, and labourers receiving 10*s.* a week are far better off than tenants paying up to 20*l.* a year rent."

Character of Farm Servants.

8. Copy of letter addressed "to the Freeholders and Tenant Farmers of the County of Carmarthen," by *Sir J. J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell*, landowners.

"You are all, doubtless, aware that at the late Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Society of this county the present condition of our farm servants excited considerable interest. The subject has subsequently occupied anxious attention, and we are of opinion that without your kind and influential aid all their endeavours to effect an improvement will be unavailing. We earnestly, therefore, invoke your cordial co-operation in accomplishing the object which we have so much at heart, and we cherish the hope that it will not be withheld. We would suggest that you should all unite in a fixed determination not to engage into your service any candidate for employment who cannot produce a *bonâ fide* written character from the situation in which he or she has last lived, and we would enjoin the greatest circumspection in granting such certificate. A form somewhat similar to the following might beneficially be adopted:—

"'A. B. has been in my employ as a servant in 'husbandry for —— years (or —— months). I 'believe him, or her, to be honest, sober, cleanly, 'and industrious, and (in the case of a female) I have 'reason to believe that her moral conduct has been 'irreproachable.'

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which, at present, much unnecessary licence is given in farm houses, and which only produce their natural results in the unhappy cases which are so frequently brought before the magistrates of the county at their Petty Sessional Meetings. We are induced to bring this subject under your consideration from our conviction that you recognize no obligation more imperative than the endeavour by every means in your power to improve and elevate the moral and social condition of those over whom you can exercise a control."

9. Extract from an Article in the *Welshman Newspaper*, written in anticipation of an interview between the Assistant Commissioner and Carmarthen Board of Guardians.

"Education is not yet what we should like, and what we hope to see it. The cottage accommodation is in many parts of the country of the most wretched description. Much has been said and written on both these questions, but what means the commissioners may recommend to improve either the one or the other we have at present no conception. There was a time when the owners and cultivators of the land considered that to educate the children of the poor was to unfit them for the station in life in which their Creator had placed them. Now, without entering into the question whether the Creator did or did not intend a person to occupy this or that particular position, we may at once congratulate the country upon the great change of opinion that has taken place

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respecting the education of the people, particularly the children of the poor. That this has not been without its effect upon the labour market, in agricultural districts, must be admitted. As soon as a boy receives a moderate amount of education, he begins to feel, like his first parent, dissatisfied with his position. He feels that he is fitted for different circumstances to those by which he had been surrounded in his childhood. No doubt numbers of labourers have in that way been lost to the agriculturist; but as civilization advances the ingenuity of man steps in, and thus manual labour has been very largely superseded by machinery. Where machinery has been adopted the farmer, as a rule finds himself in a better position than he was before; and as he now requires intelligent skilled labourers, he has become the friend and promoter of education. To increase the number of public schools in the country, and to induce—perhaps to compel—parents to send their children to them, will, we expect, be the work of the legislature at no distant period. With regard to cottage accommodation, it is not only deficient in many places, but of the most wretched description. There was, until a few years ago, something to be gained by sending the labourer to reside out of the parish in which he was employed; and few cottages were for that reason erected on the farms; but though the cause which led to this state of things has been removed, the evil still remains. To whom are we to look for a remedy? Hitherto it has been a question between landlord and tenant, and we still doubt the ability of the Government to deal with it arbitrarily. The effect of improved dwellings on the *morale* of the people would be something considerable. It would give such an impetus to education as we at present have little conception of; for many a labourer's cottage, now the home of misery, by being converted into a place of comfort, would become a night school for the young. But we will not anticipate the discussion of these points at the next meeting of the guardians, to which we look with much interest."

Pauperism.

10. The following passage, which occurs in an article published in the *Welshman Newspaper* on the 4th of September 1869, tends to show, that the same action which I pointed out to you in my Report on Oxfordshire and Berks, is going on in South Wales to the increase of pauperism:—

"Underlying, however, all those minor difficulties in the way of controlling the expenditure of the union, there is one which is apparently inseparable from the system generally, and one for which we feel great diffidence in suggesting a remedy. Every step in the recent legislation on this subject has been made in the direction of spreading the cost of maintaining the poor over the whole surface of the union; and perhaps, all considered, the steps taken have been in the right direction. Still, however, an abuse has sprung up, the remedy for which can only be found in the good sense of the guardians. As long as each individual parish felt the burden of maintaining its own poor, there existed a strong inducement for the guardians to see that the relief of individual paupers was not excessive. Now, however, since the relief of the individual is borne by the union generally, the fact that the aggregate of the expense to the union is increased is lost sight of in the desire of many good-natured and easy-going guardians to see that their own poor are tenderly, we were going to say too tenderly, cared for. The result has been that many persons figure as paupers, who, under the old system, would not have been paupers at all, and that the measure of relief dealt out in other cases has been in excess of what it would have been had the case been otherwise. There is in the minds of many guardians a feeling somewhat akin to that spoken of by Sydney Smith when describing a sort of pseudo-benevolence which led the person affected by it never to see a case of distress without wishing that somebody else would relieve it, the somebody else in this case being represented by the union at large. It is difficult to counteract this tendency, and we almost fear it can only be done by the appointment of a sort of supervisor of the relief list, who would have no local sympathies to sway him in the pursuit of his duty. The appointment of a new salaried officer is one that we suggest with diffidence in the face of the rapidly increasing expenditure of the union, but judiciously made we are far from thinking that it would not be a saving to the pockets of the rate-payers.

TENBY.

11. *Evidence of a quarryman* working in a limestone quarry near Tenby.

"We work by the piece, and get 1*s.* a ton for the lime when burnt; it takes about 1½ tons of stone to make a ton of burnt lime. We find our own tools and powder and can clear about 18*s.* a week. All the quarrymen are from the English part of Wales. The Welsh don't understand the work and cannot make a living at it."

(*Note.*—There are a large number of men employed at the lime quarries in the neighbourhood of Tenby, natives of the English or Flemish quarter, and these men appeared to the Assistant Commissioner to be a fine class of workmen.)

RESOLUTIONS OF BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

12. NARBETH UNION.

Population, 21,344 - Acreage, 124,903.

At a meeting of the *Board of Guardians for Narbeth Union*, held on the 19th of July 1869, in answer to a question put to the Board by Mr. George Culley, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That there is no need of restricting the labour of children employed in agriculture in this union, inasmuch as children under 13 years of age are very little employed; any pressure necessary for the sake of education should be put directly on the parents, amongst whom however there is a growing appreciation of the benefit of educating their children."

The following is the rule of the Board as to the age at which relief to the children of widows ceases:—

"That all widows requiring relief be allowed one shilling weekly for each child until they attain the age of 13 years, provided they are kept at school."

HAVERFORDWEST UNION.

Population, 37,343 - Acreage, 170,861.

13. ANSWERS given by the *Board of Guardians for Haverfordwest Union* to the questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner at a meeting held on the 28th of July 1869.

1. *As to Employment of Boys in Farm Labour.*

Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals, any child up to 12 years of age might attend school for eight months in the year.

Children receiving parochial relief are allowed such relief and payment for schooling up to 14 *years* of age. The Board allowed 47*l.*, in payment for such schooling, during last year (1868).

2. *As to the Employment of Girls.*

Girls are employed about the same age as boys and in the same manner, though not so extensively.

3. *As to the Employment of Women.*

Adult women (chiefly married) are employed in all kinds of farm work.

4. Labourers are generally near their work, cottages being let with the farms.

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

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5. *The hours of work are,*

For men, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 1½ hours for meals.

For women, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour for dinner.

Horses work from 7 a.m. till 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. *No legislative restrictions* as to the age at which children should be permitted to work are needed.

7. *The provision of schools* throughout the union is good; the neglect of education arises from the indifference of the parents.

8. *The condition of cottages* is generally bad; our agricultural labouring class are diminishing in number.

9. All cottages have *gardens.*

10. *Wages.*

Some labourers are boarded by the farmers, others board themselves and are allowed potato land, the leadage of coal, &c. The whole value of a man's earnings, including all perquisites, will average 12*s.* a week for the year.

CARMARTHEN UNION.

Population, 36,675 - Acreage, 172,546.

14. ANSWERS given by the *Carmarthen Board of Guardians* to questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner at a meeting held on the 31st of July 1869.

1. *As to the Employment of Boys.*

Boys begin to be employed at about 12 years of age.

2. *As to the Employment of Girls.*

Girls are employed in light farm work in some parishes of the union from about 12 years of age.

3. *As to the Employment of Women.*

On arable farms women (usually married) are employed in all light farm work, but female employment is more generally confined to harvest and hay time.

4. Labourers have *no extreme distances* to go to their work.

5. *The hours of work* are for *men* from 6 to 6, with 1½ hours for meals; for *women*, from 8 to 6, with one hour for dinner.

6. *As to restricting the age at which children should be permitted to work.*

It is not desirable that children should be employed under 12 years of age, but no legislative restriction is necessary in this union.

7. *As to Provision of Schools, &c.*

Schools are provided in almost every parish of the union. The parents generally take advantage of the schools, where (as is usually the case) there is no difficulty on the score of religious teaching.

8. *Condition of Cottages.*

The cottages in the union are as a rule *bad.*

9. All cottages have *gardens.*

10. *Wages.*

The average earnings for 12 months at the command of an able-bodied labourer amount to about 12*s.* a week.

For men who receive their food, wages vary from 6*s.* a week and food, to 7*s.* 6*d.* and food, 1*s.* a day and food being the most usual pay. Wages vary considerably in this union.

LLANDOVERY UNION.

15. ANSWERS given by the *Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union* to questions proposed to them by the Assistant Commissioners, July 24th 1869.

"Except on hill farms looking after cattle or sheep, boys are not usually employed in farm labour in this union till they are 11 or 12 years of age.

"Girls are very little employed in farm labour, and never under 12 years of age.

"Women are not much employed except in hay and corn harvest; they are much less employed now than formerly.

"The hours of work for men are from 6 to 6 with 1½ hours for meals. Where women are employed they work from 9 till 6 with one hour for dinner. Hired servants (male) who form the majority of farm labourers in this union have irregular hours.

"There is no need in this union to place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land, as their employment does not interfere at all with their school attendance up to 10 years of age and very little up to 12.

"There is no parish in the union without a school; all who can (and most parents can) send their children to school.

"Cottages have been greatly improved of late years; the old cottages and old farm-houses are deficient in accommodation, but they are fast disappearing.

"Every cottage in the union has a garden.

"The farm labourers who find themselves are a small class; including all allowances their average earnings for 12 months would be about 12*s.* a week.

"Where men (which is not common in this union) get so much a week and their food, living in their own cottage, the wages usually are 7*s.* a week with food and a cottage rent free.

"Most of the farm servants are lodged and boarded on the farm premises, and an able-bodied man will command from 12*l.* to 18*l.* as wages.

"Nearly all cottages keep pigs and many rent a little field and keep a cow.

"A labourer with 10*s.* a week is better off than a small farmer paying a rent of say 20*l.* a year." *

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

16. EVIDENCE given by *Mr. T. G. Bush,* Surgeon, Medical Officer of Narbeth Union.

1. Is any physical injury done by the way in which boys and girls are employed in farm labour?

None; because as a rule they are not employed in heavy work, so that there is no taxing of the strength beyond the physical capability of the child. My experience for the last 25 years, especially with union children, is that if they are not sent out by the age of 13 they do not take so readily to work and are apt to come back to the workhouse.

2. What is the state of health of the agricultural labouring class?

In this district it is very good.

3. Is the change of food gradually taking place for good or for evil?

Most decidedly for good; I find that since the potatoe and porridge diet (which was up to the time of the outbreak of the potatoe disease the prevalent food of the agricultural labourer and cottager) has been to a great extent abandoned and replaced by bread, butter, and cheese; that the labourer is more able to resist the influences of weather, and when he is struck down by disease there is a far greater rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so

* These were given as the answers of the Board after discussing each of the questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner.

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that he is able soon to resume work. It may also be added that the board of guardians now give a larger amount of relief to the sick poor than was formerly the case.

4. Is the state of cottages such as to injure health?

There is a decided improvement in cottages within the last few years; some will always be found unhealthy, as much owing to the habits of the inmates as to the construction of the buildings.

17. *Mr. John Hughes*, surgeon, &c., Carmarthen, says, "Children are not generally employed before about 12 years of age, the girls chiefly in housework. Women are not employed to any great extent except in harvest time.

"I do not believe that either boys or girls are overworked."

18. *Mr. D. Lloyd*, surgeon and medical officer of Carmarthen Union, says, "I visit three parishes of the union. There is nothing injurious physically to the children of the agricultural labouring class in the manner of their employment.

"The agricultural labourers are as a class much more provident than town labourers. It would be a great benefit to this district if we could get the labourers to join provident societies more than they do."

19. EVIDENCE of *Mr. William Philipps*, Relieving Officer, Narbeth Union.

"The condition of the labouring class is much improved since my recollection both as to wages and position. The usual rate of wages for agricultural labourers about 25 years ago was from 3*s*. to 4*s*. weekly and their food; there were some privileges in addition, such as manure for setting potatoes and employment for the wives and any of the children who were able during haymaking and harvest, but in those days the children were badly clad and if sickness came to the house the family were some time before recovering. Barley bread and potatoes were their chief food and schooling was little thought of. I believe the turning point in the labourer's advanced condition was about the making of the South Wales railway, the demand for labour and the offer of more wages induced many to accept the opportunity, and a large number of agricultural labourers were employed on the line. On the completion of the railway great advantages were opened for labourers to visit the coal mines in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth which they could formerly only reach on foot. Some return occasionally to their native homes, while large numbers with their families settle on the hills and some emigrate to America and the colonies. Under these circumstances the present condition of the working class is much superior to what it was. The usual rate of wages are now 6*s*. per week and food and from 9*s*. to 12*s*. on their own finding: wheat bread is now almost universally used, but the present high price of butcher's meat is rather beyond their means. Applications for relief by the able-bodied without being afflicted by sickness are very rare in these days, and under these circumstances, together with privileges of educating their children at a small charge, the present general condition of the labourer is much improved."

Cottages.

"The major part of the cottages of the labouring class are wholly unfit either for comfort or morality, being much too small and not having proper partitions so as to make them convenient and decent. The damp mud floors must be far from conducive to health especially in the winter season. In many small parishes cottages were discontinued for the purpose of preventing parties becoming chargeable to the poor rates; this evil has now been remedied by the Union Chargeability Act. At present there are not sufficient dwellings for labourers. Several large estates have few cottages, and those that have fallen into decay are seldom or ever replaced."

Health of District.

"The general health of the district is good, and I believe the rate of mortality is as small as any district in Wales."

Bastardy.

"The rate of bastardy is, I believe, on the decrease; and the cause of its being at the present rate is from the great levity allowed to farm servants in spending nights together courting, not always from love or affection, but usually from an old foolish custom of the country, and from which evil results are often produced; but since the improvement in the bastardy laws marriage is more often the result of *courting*.

"Benefit societies have in this locality been the cause of greatly assisting the poor rates, and also the independent position of the working man; but the great failure in those societies, and which is now growing, is the want of proper management—tables for *different ages* on entrance,—as well as to direct in what manner a safe and certain sum weekly could be paid, according to the amount of contribution received, are greatly wanted. There is at present no provision for old age, and when members from age continue on half pay (of which there very often are many) then commences the downfall of the society, as the income is not sufficient to meet the demand. There is also another reason for the breaking up of societies, and that is the division of part of the capital; although this is illegal, yet unless the power is taken from those locally concerned in the matter, there will never be sufficient guard against its continuance, as a few zealous members would hardly fight against the major part of the members, who are generally in favour of a division."

Employment of Labour on Farms.

"Farms are usually let by the year, and in some cases agreements are so stringent that the tenant finds it an impossibility to sign, and therefore is obliged to leave the farm. Under these circumstances there is no encouragement to farmers to lay out capital and employ labour; and this, I think, is the chief reason why our labourers are driven to seek their living elsewhere. If farms were properly cultivated, and fair remunerative inducements given to farmers to improve the land, I feel certain that the present supply of agricultural labourers would be found to be wholly insufficient."

Employment of Women.

"The field labour in which women are generally employed is haymaking, harvest, and turnips; and I find invariably the most willing to work in assisting their husband to maintain their families are the best and most thrifty housewives."

20. *Mr. W. J. Rowe*, relieving officer, Narberth Union.—My district is partly Welsh and partly Flemish or English. The labourers' cottages are generally bad; built of mud or stone and thatched, with mud floors. Each cottage has a pigsty, and most of the cottagers keep pigs. The cottages are generally let with the farms, and sublet by the farmers.

In the agricultural part of my district the wages of labourers are 6*s*. a week and meat, or from 9*s*. to 10*s*. without meat. The man with 6*s*. and his meat is the best off of the two. In the colliery part of my district the wages are higher, but cottages are dearer. Rents are about 42*s*. a year in the agricultural district, and 70*s*. in the colliery. Our labourers are much better off than they used to be.

21. *Mr. J. Griffith*, relieving officer, Welsh district of Narbeth Union, says:—

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"The cottages in my district have generally two rooms on the ground floor. The floors are usually mud.

"Rents seldom exceed 2*l.*; some pay as little as 1*l.*

"Some parents send their children to school, some do not. I think the major part of the children are not at school."

HAVERFORDWEST UNION.

22. Evidence of *Mr. J. John Johnston*, relieving officer, Milford district:—

"The cottages are bad in my district, and many have tumbled down. There is much less manual labour in the country than there used to be, and the men go off to the works or emigrate; they can get 20*s.* a week in the mines.

"Farms run from 20 to 300 acres. Unless a 20-acre farmer works for other people he is not so well off as a regular labourer.

"These 20-acre farms in my district are generally poor land, and pay about 10*s.* an acre rent. Unless a man with 40 acres of such land has something else to do he isn't better off than a labourer.

"There is only one parish in my district without a school."

23. Evidence of *Mr. D. J. Vaughan*, relieving officer, Fishguard district:—

"The cottages in my district are very poor. Farm labourers get their victuals and 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week. Their wages are worth about 10*s.* a week in the country, and 12*s.* a week in Fishguard.

"Wages have risen very much of late years, but the young men leave the district a good deal; such men are very scarce. Mine is the poorest district of the union. There are 11 schools in my district, for 20 parishes; five of these schools are in two parishes, and there are therefore 12 parishes without schools. These parishes are:—

	Population.	Acreage.
Castlebythe - - -	227	2,537
Henry's Moat - - -	287	3,166
Jordanston - - -	131	1,876
Llanllawer - - -	117	1,202
Lanstinan - - -	174	1,579
Lanvair-nant-y-Gof - -	245	2,597
Lanychaer - - -	194	2,053
Manorowen - - -	186	1,263
Morvil - - - -	125	2,551
Newcastle, Little - -	354	2,712
St. Nicholas - - -	284	2,141
Pontfaen - - -	32	695
Walton, East - - -	223	1,893

(*Note.*—I have added the population and acreage of these parishes, the names of which were given by Mr. Vaughan.—G. C.)"

24. Evidence of *Mr. E. Evans*, relieving officer, St. David's district:—

"Wages are the same in my district as in the rest of the union. In four out of 14 parishes in my district there are no schools; but they are small parishes (St. Edrins, St. Elvis, St. Lawrence, and Llanrythan), and there are plenty of schools in the district. I should think wages have trebled in my district during the last 20 years."

(The population of the four parishes named by Mr. Evans are, St. Edrins 118, St. Elvis 33, St. Lawrence 205, and Llanrythan 188.—G. C.)

25. *Mr. J. Lloyd*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says, "The farms in my district are usually small, especially in Abernant and Treleach.

"Many farmers would hire by the year two lads and a boy (the lads 17 to 18; and the boy 12 or 13 years old). Boys don't get wages much before they are 12 or 13; they get food and old clothes. Lads of 17 or 18, hired by the year, would have their bed and meat, but not washing, and from 7*l.* to 9*l.* a year. A man hired by the year would have 12*l.* to 13*l.* and his board (the wages 15 years ago for such a man would have been 6*l.*).

"Able-bodied men go off to the works in Glamorganshire, and leave the old men and lads to do the work here; that is the cause of our poors' rate increasing.

"A boy from 12 to 13 would get 50*s.* to 3*l.* and his meat. Such a boy, with the hired men, would usually sleep over the stables in a loft on clothes spread on clean straw in the body of a cart.

"We have farms of 12 to 15 acres, where the farmers family does the work of the farm. There are several places about Treleach where the farms have been divided into these small holdings for the sake of getting more rent. As a rule the labourers' cottages are of one story, with two low rooms on the ground floor, and a loft where the children sleep. The floor of the loft is made of wattle, like a wattled hurdle. The rooms are very ill-ventilated, and the beds are close box beds.

"The wages of farm labourers who are not hired into the house are 6*s.* a week and their food. For about a fortnight at each time in haytime and harvest they get 9*s.* a week and their food.

"In cutting hay in hot weather the farmers give weak beer and coffee twice a day; the beer is very poor, with a good deal of treacle. The dinner in harvest is milk and flummery (flummery is made of oatmeal) with cheese and butter. At 6 or 7 o'clock they have bacon, potatoes, and cabbage, done in a pot, and rice pudding.

"Very few labourers in my district find their own food. I hardly know their wages.

"Those farmers get the best men who feed them best. Some give a pennyworth of tobacco or a penny to the men, and a candle to the women each night in harvest.

"Girls do milking and light farm work in my district.

"A dairymaid, having charge of the dairy has about 6*l.* wages; but the farmer's wife generally does the work of a dairywoman.

"A second maid, say a girl of 16, would get 4*l.*

In haytime a labourer's wife gets 6*d.* a day and food, and in corn harvest 1*s.* a day and food.

"The farms are larger in the lower district towards Langharne (*i.e.* towards the coast), and wages are higher.

"Mine is the poorest district in the union, but my relief is the lowest of the lot."

26. *Mr. John Jones*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says,—"The wages are rather better in my district than in some parts of the union, we are rather nearer the collieries, though colliers' wages are not so good as they were.

"An able-bodied man going to the collieries can command 12*s.* a week and may get 15*s.*

"Farm lanourers have 6*s.* a week and their food in winter, and 12*s.* a week and food for about two months in summer. These men live in their own cottages and pay from 2*l.* to 3*l.* for their cottage and garden.

"The labourers on the south-east of Towy live rather better than those on the other side.

"Women do light farm work, but labourers' wives do not work out much, except in harvest when they get from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day and their food.

"The cottages in my district are generally bad, they usually have two rooms (sometimes one) on the ground floor, with nothing but the open roof over them, they are generally built of stone and thatched."

27. *Mr. J. Thomas*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says:—

"Labourers' cottages in my district are rather indifferent; they are small, with two rooms and no

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upper story, except in a few cases of new ones. A good deal of arable land has been laid down to grass in my district on account of the great rise in the price of butter and milk, and the labour has been reduced.

"Too few labourers are employed in most farms; nothing pays better than employing plenty of labour.

"Men who keep themselves don't average more than 9*s.* a week wages. Those that are fed by the farmer and sleep at home, average 6*s.* a week.

"Women working 10 hours a day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., commonly get 6*d.* a day and their food; if they get no food they get 1*s.* a day.

"If a farmer hires three men and lads into his house they would get, say,—

"1st ploughman, 16*l.* wages.

"2nd ploughman, about 18 year's old, 12*l.* wages.

"3rd ploughman, about 16 years' old, 6*l.* to 7*l.* wages.

"In this union we give relief to children up to 13 years, and most labourers' children remain at school till they are over 10, and are better educated than farmers' children were a few years ago, or indeed are now."

28. *Mr. Daniel Williams*, relieving officer, Llandovery Union, says:—

"The average wage of the union, taking the year throughout, for men, finding themselves and paying rent for their cottages, is 13*s.* a week.

"I think our labourers are better off than small farmers, say, than farmers paying 20*l.* a year rent, and they educate their children better. The children of small farmers are often sent to work before they are fit for it.

"The union is well supplied with schools. There are often two schools doing what one might do; a state of things arising from religious differences.

"It is very difficult to get occasional labourers now; we have to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day. Labourers are much better off than they used to be, simply because the labour market has been thinned by men going off to the works and emigrating to America.

"In one parish alone there are 40 cottages less than when I first remember it.

"The cottages are usually let with the farms, and there is no inclination on the part of the farmers to take advantage of this.

"Very few of our farmers keep labourers (who are not yearly hired men) throughout the year, such men work first for one farmer and then for another.

"Hired male servants who are good men get from 15*l.* to 18*l.* a year.

"Lads from 18 to 20 get from 12*l.* to 14*l.*

"Boys of about 12 are employed in summer minding cattle and are at school in winter.

"Hired servants when they marry generally emigrate."

APPENDIX B.

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Pembroke Union.

Carew.

Population, 993 - Acreage, 5,636.

Cultivation mixed.

29. The *Rev. John Phelps*, vicar, says:—

"*Young persons* under 18 years of age are employed all the year in agriculture.

"*Children* are employed from March to October.

"*Girls* under 18 are hired from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, board and lodge in the farmhouse, milk the cows, and work at the usual work of the farm; in the fields in spring, summer and autumn.

"*All the women* who are not nursing infants are employed in field work."

Distance Labourers go to work.

"The women go to work some within a mile and some within two miles."

Hours of Work.

"Women and girls who live at home in their own cottages go out to work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Restrictions as to Age of Employment.

"Parents who have large families are glad to eke out their own maintenance by the small earnings of their children."

As to Restrictions in Labour for the Sake of Education.

"Children ought to be kept at school until they are 11 years of age. If parents will not send their children to school, the children had better be employed at work than permitted to remain at home in idleness and dirt."

Schools.

"All the children may attend school by paying one penny weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

Cottages.

"The cottages have gardens. If the cottages had more space and accommodation the occupiers would try to take lodgers." B.

Stackpole Elidor.

Population, 273 - Acreage, 2,845.

30. *Mr. A. Trotter*, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, says, "The cultivation is mixed in four course husbandry.

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years of age, chiefly in spring and summer.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age as boys in turnip hoeing and haymaking.

"*Women* are employed in hay and corn harvest, and in pulling turnips, &c. in winter.

"Men work for 9 hours; women for 8.

"Boys should not be allowed to work till they are about 12 years old.

"There are good *schools* in the neighbourhood and they are fully taken advantage of.

"The *cottages* generally are in a very bad state of repair; but in the property of the Earl of Cawdor they have been very much improved of late.

"The cottagers have all good gardens and generally 1 cwt. of potatoes planted in their employer's field as well."

Wages, &c.

"Labourers' wages in the Hundred of Castlemartin or South Pembrokeshire, including all earnings, will average 14*s.* per week.

"They have all free houses and gardens, are allowed to keep a pig and some of them a cow. They have 1 cwt. of potatoes planted for them, fuel hauled for them, and they get the grain they use for bread at a reduced rate."

Food.

"Their food chiefly consists of barley meal made into bread, sometimes mixed with flour. They generally have for breakfast cold tea and bread, and for

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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dinner generally the same thing; for supper, bacon and potatoes.

"There is a great difference between the Welsh and southern Scotch labourers.

"The Welsh labourer is not so trustworthy as the Scotch, he is less punctual and more careless, and shows a great want of interest when doing anything for his employer and a double portion in anything affecting himself. He is physically inferior to the Scotchman, as the food he uses is not calculated to promote muscular development."

HAVERFORDWEST UNION.

DALE.

Population, 463 - Acreage, 1,709.

Cultivation mixed.

31. *Mr. J. A. P. L. Philipps*, landowner, and occupier, and chairman of Haverfordwest Board of Guardians, says, "Neither *boys nor girls* are employed in farm labour under 14 years of age.

"*Women*, married and single, are employed in hay and corn harvests, turnip hoeing, and in the barn in winter.

"Labourers reside generally on the farms on which they work or in the village close adjoining.

"*Women's hours of work* are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with one hour for dinner at noon.

"No restriction is necessary on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land."

Schools.

"We are to have one of Madam Bevan's masters at Michaelmas; at present there is no school.

"*Cottages* are not good except those *recently* built; they are sufficient in number for the labour required. They have plenty of water; the ventilation is bad.

"All the cottages have gardens."

Wages and average Earnings of Labourers for 12 months.

"20*l.* a year. They kill every winter one good pig from 18 to 20 score lbs. weight, and also make money by selling butter."

LLANHOWELL.

Population, 184 - Acreage, 1,381.

Cultivation mixed.

32. *Mr. John Reynolds*, occupier and guardian, says, "*Boys* are employed all the year as plough boys, carters, and errand boys.

"Girls are employed in farm-houses as servants all the year round, and by the year to attend calves, cows, milk, pigs.

"*Women* are very little employed all the winter; in summer they are employed in hay and corn harvest and hoeing turnips. Women never go off the farms where they get houses."

Distance.

"Labourers do not go at furthest more than two miles to their work; this is exceptional, not the rule."

Hours of Work.

"From 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; all of them on their own finding.

"*It is not desirable* to place restriction on the labour of children."

Schools.

"There are two British schools at a convenient distance, one at Croesgoch, the other at Solva; they are generally taken advantage of. Labour does not prevent children attending school."

Cottages.

"Cottages are improving; they are sufficient for the supply of labour required; they are situated on the farms; they are not badly overcrowded, and I have heard of no evil results to morality in consequence; they are well supplied with water. Our workmen do not care to have big houses; they require more fire to warm them. Workmen like a snug thatched cottage; it is much more comfortable."

Gardens.

"Cottagers have good gardens, and most of them have from four to six acres of land to keep a cow or raise corn."

WISTON.

Population, 713 - Acreage, 7,030.

Cultivation mixed.

33. *Mr. R. P. Davies*, landowner, occupier, and high sheriff of Pembrokeshire.

"*Boys* from 12 to 15 years of age are employed in summer.

"*Girls* from 13 to 18 years of age are employed at hay time and harvest and weeding and turnips.

"*Women* are generally employed on farm labour.

"They go from ½ to 1 mile to their work, and work 8 hours a day."

As to restricting the Age of Employment.

"*Boys* should not be permitted to be employed under 12 years of age.

"As to girls, I do not think any restriction is required in this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school not generally taken advantage of from the carelessness of parents."

Cottages.

"The condition of cottages is bad in general; they are not sufficient for the supply of labour; they are not generally overcrowded, and no causes of immorality have come under my notice. They are well supplied with water but badly ventilated. All have gardens."

33*a*. *Mr. James Kello*, bailiff to Mr. R. P. Davies, says:—

"*Boys* of from 12 to 15 years of age are employed in summer and autumn.

"*Girls* of from 12 to 18 years are employed in hoeing turnips and harvest work.

"Women are generally employed in farm work.

"Men work from 7 to 12 and 2 to 6.

"Women from 8 to 12 and 2 to 6.

As to restricting the Age at which Children should work.

"I would limit the age for boys to 12, but for girls I see no need of restriction in this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school not generally taken advantage of, simply from the negligence of the parents."

Cottages.

"The cottages are generally in bad condition, but all have gardens."

Wages, &c.

"Including all allowances labourers wages average about 12*s.* a week; they are hired by the year and paid fortnightly.

"Labourers here at the wages they receive are fully as highly paid as southern Scotch labourers, taking the quantity and quality of work done.

"The families of labourers are not generally well treated, being principally fed on barley-bread and weak tea. Milk is *not* generally an article of diet with them."

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Small Farms.

"Small farms are undoubtedly a great hindrance to the progress of agriculture. Small farmers generally have neither capital nor skill to farm profitably, and in a great many instances live harder than labourers."

CARDIGAN UNION.

ST. DOGMELLS.

34. *Mr. R. D. Jenkens,* landowner and occupier, says:—

"The *cultivation* is mixed, partly arable and partly pasture. That part of the parish which lies between the town of Cardigan and the village of St. Dogmells is altogether pasture.

"*Boys* generally go out as herd boys to look after sheep and cattle when about 13 years of age, but the great bulk of the male population of this parish are employed as sailors.

"*Girls* are employed about the age of 13 also to assist the farmers' wives in taking care of their children, and to go messages and make themselves generally useful. They begin working in the turnip fields when about 13 years of age.

"*Women* are employed entirely in domestic work, in milking the cows and principally in picking couch preparatory for turnip sowing, and also in hoeing turnips and mangolds and in hay and corn harvests."

As to Distance.

"The females employed on my own farm are the wives and children of my labourers who live on the farm, and also young persons residing in the village of St. Dogmells, which is distant about two miles.

"*Women work* from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. generally.

"I see no occasion for restricting the age at which children should work in this part of the county."

Schools.

"There are two schools for the poorer classes in the village of St. Dogmells, viz., a National and a British and Foreign school which are principally attended by the children of the village, viz., the sailor's children; but others go there also from the agricultural districts. There are some two or three other small schools in the village, and in addition Sunday schools belonging to all the churches and chapels."

Cottages.

"I do not consider the cottages generally are so well arranged as they should be with regard to the comfort of the labourers. I think they are pretty nearly sufficient for the supply of labour in this parish and generally conveniently situated with respect to the farms. I cannot say that any evil results to morality have come under my notice from the overcrowding of the cottages, but as a rule I consider them overcrowded; I think they are generally well supplied with water, but good ventilation is the exception.

Gardens.

"I think all the labourers' cottages in the agricultural parts have good sized gardens, also the great majority of the cottages in the village of St. Dogmells have gardens."

Wages and mode of Hiring.

"I can speak of those in my own employment. I have some labourers who have 1*s.* a day on their own finding excepting during the harvest, when I give them all their food in addition; those men also have 3*s.* a day when cutting hay; they pay me 3*l.* a year each for their cottages, gardens, and a sufficient quantity of land to keep a cow each and sometimes rear a calf and to grow corn, but not sufficient corn to maintain their families. I allow my teams and men to cultivate their land for them and to haul their fuel and manure free of expense for haulage. I also pay rates and tithes charged in respect of their holdings.

"To other labourers I give 8*s.* a week on their own finding with food during harvest time and the same wages for cutting hay as the prior class referred to; they live on my farm. I charge them 1*l.* a year for a cottage and garden, but they have no land to keep a cow. I haul their fuel free of charge.

"To a third class I give 8*s.* a week from November to March and 9*s.* from March to November, with the same regulations as to food during harvest and also the same wage for cutting hay as the others; they do not live in my cottages, therefore pay rather a higher rent than mine do. I allow my labourers to plant potatoes on my land, giving them six or eight cart loads of my farm manure for which they or rather their wives give me a day's harvesting for each cart load of manure, no other charge made for the load; the women have their food when so harvesting.

"I pay girls and women 8*d.* a day on their own finding excepting during harvest when I give them their food.

"I pay my ploughboys who follow the team from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year wages and their board and lodging.

"The usual way of hiring *farm servants* not labourers in this and the adjoining counties is at fairs held in the months of October and November. Males and females hire at such fairs as servants in husbandry, the male portion are principally engaged to follow the teams and the females to attend to dairies, feed the cows in many places and also the pigs, and to shake the straw when thrashing.

"I think the agricultural labourers are as a class in South Wales honest and industrious and of sober habits. They are not well housed as a rule and the food they eat is coarser than the English labourer. They do not eat so much animal food as the English, in many parts they eat barley bread, but wheaten bread is much more consumed now than it used to be. In my replies I ought perhaps to have stated that I never charge my labourers more than 4*s.* a bushel for barley; when it is to be had under that price they have the advantage, but it never exceeds that price to them."

NARBETH UNION.

AMROTH AND CRUNWERE.

Population, 1,150 - Acreage, 4,568.

35. *The Rev. W. D. Phillips,* rector, says:—

"*Boys* are employed in the spring and autumn, when they assist in hoeing turnips, planting potatoes, and in harvesting the corn; this is nearly the extent of their work."

"*Girls* are employed in my two parishes; without professing to be accurate, I think from 40 to 50 children between 12 and 15 or 16 years of age are employed (at 15 or 16 they generally go to service); their work is planting potatoes, weeding turnips, and harvesting.

"As there are a great many small holdings in my parishes, most of the *women* are occasionally engaged in field work; the number who work for hire are few."

Distance.

"They rarely go more than a mile to work."

As to restricting the Labour of Children or Women.

"The field labour is so inconsiderable in these parishes, consisting chiefly of grazing lands, that the time occupied by it is no material interruption in their attendance at school under the age of 13; after that period they are no longer found (I speak generally) in the school.

"Neither health nor education is in the slightest degree prejudiced by female field work in this locality."

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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Schools.

"In Amroth there are two schools, both fairly attended, not to the extent they should be. The attendance of children is irregular; the parents desire their children to be educated but seem careless as to the amount, and ignorant that it can be obtained only by diligence and regularity of attendance; the indifference of parents is the great obstacle to education."

Cottages.

"Cottages lately built provide for the separation of the sexes; the cottages of an earlier date are wretched, with no regard to decency or the accommodation of human beings; they are very much over-crowded, affecting unfavourably the morality of the people. They are generally located on the farms. Water is in plenty, but the cottages stifling."

Gardens.

"There are gardens attached to nearly all the cottages. As to allotments, until horticulture shall have made some advance amongst the rural population in this part of the country they would be of no advantage.

"Most of the poor are enabled to plant their potatoes on the ground of some neighbouring farmer, for which the latter receives help in harvest time, or the manure which has accumulated near the cottage."

35*a*. In a letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Phillips, who is diocesan inspector of schools for his district, says:—

"In the 12 schools which come under my notice, I should pronounce four efficient and doing really good work. The remainder certainly are the means of diffusing knowledge around, but not to the extent or of the accuracy which is desirable. The causes are not far to seek, but to describe them would need not a letter, but a report of a somewhat elaborate character.

"I may say, as a general proposition, that agricultural labour does not attract the children from school under 12, or more than other employments after that age.

"There are some in every parish, but their number is diminishing, who do not avail themselves of a school, whatever may be the character of it. A good school attracts more than an indifferent one.

"The general advance in wages, offering the children remunerative employment generally, is the great impediment to education, as they are thus withdrawn too early from school."

35*b*. *Mr. John Rogers*, schoolmaster, Amroth, 27 years standing, says:—

"This is a church school; it was built in 1860. There is an endowment of 15*l*., and I am paid 20*l*. a year in all, *i. e.*, 5*l*. is added by subscription to the endowment. I have also a house and small garden. We have about 60 children on an average.

At Crunwere the school is very small; the tollgate keeper is the teacher and the school is in his house. Some of the children from Crunwere come here, some go to Taverspite, and some to Marros.

"We are able to keep very few children after 12 years of age, and the attendance is very irregular. This irregularity arises from the carelessness of the parents.

"The collieries take the children from about nine years of age; they get from 4*d*. to 5*d*. a day at that age. The agricultural labourers get about 12*s*. a week, chiefly paid in money. Colliers make from 12*s*. to 15*s*. a week. There are not nearly so many men employed in the collieries now as there used to be, and there are likely to be fewer. The cottages are generally very bad. The usual form of cottage is one long room with a door in the middle and small window on each side of the door, with a partition reaching from the door across or nearly across the room, and as high as the wall of the cottage. The room is open to the roof, and there is generally no loft or upstairs.

"We have a good many small farmers who pay about 30*l*. a year rent. These men keep their children at home to work, and are worse off than the regular labourer; their children leave school very early, and attend irregularly."

35*c*. *David Scurfield*, an able-bodied man working on the road, says:—"I am paid 10*s*. a week, with no "extras."

Another man working in the adjoining parish on the roads, said he had 9*s*. a week. (This was during hay time.—G. C.)

BEGELLY.

Population, 1,311 - Acreage, 3,878.

36. *The Rev. R. Buckby*, rector, says:—

"Neither women nor children are regularly employed in this parish in agriculture. The population are colliers and miners."

Across that portion of the circular of inquiry which refers to schools, cottages, gardens, &c., Mr. Buckby writes:—

"Mr. Culley, who is paid for it, had better go round and make these inquiries himself, as it is invidious to sit in judgment on a neighbour's property."

(On the day on which I called on Mr. Buckby and visited his school and one or two of the cottages in the village and neighbourhood of Begelly, I was told that he was engaged and could not see me, and in the circular which I left at his house I marked for his special attention the question referring to the provision of schools and attendance of the children; with the circular I left a form for a return of the attendance at the school.—G.C.)

36*a*. *Mr. Thomas John*, teacher of parochial school, says:—

"*Boys* seldom remain with us after 10, they go to the collieries, not to farm work. *Girls* remain till they are from 12 to 14.

"The attendance is bad, as the parents complain "that the school is too close." (The schoolroom is about 25 ft. by 14½ ft., with a low open roof and bad floor, very unfit to represent the chief, if not the only school of the parish.—G. C.)

"I have had as many as 65 children in this room in this weather; if I had a better room I could get a regular attendance of 70.

"I have no certificate, but I would like to sit for examination.

"The children pay 1*d*. for reading, and 1½*d*. for writing and ciphering, but I seldom get them to ciphering, and they soon forget their reading when they get to work.

"I am paid 12*l*. a year, besides what I can get. I can't get 30*l*. altogether.'

36*b*. *Griffith Thomas*, says:—"I am an invalid. I "was a collier. My cottage is freehold, and I rent three "acres at 7*l*. from Captain Child, and I keep a cow "on the common. I have 10 children; some of them "are grown up, the others go to Sunday school, but "not to day school. This girl, who is 12, cannot "read or write. The boy Richard, who is 10, cannot "read or write either; he herds cattle for Captain "Child, and gets 1*d*. a day and his victuals. They "won't take children at the parish school under five "years old."

CILMAENLLWYD.

Population, 640 - Acreage, 4,381.

37. *The Rev. R. B. Jones*, vicar, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed, the arable gradually becoming subservient to the pastoral; the produce of the dairy is rising in importance, and the corn lands gradually becoming of less and less value in many respects.

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Employment of Boys.

"Whenever the children can be made useful without injury to themselves they are allowed to help, and allowed to fancy they are of very first-rate importance. Any act of oppression or cruelty towards the young would arouse the indignation and resentment of the whole country.

Employment of Girls.

"Whatever the mother can do, the daughter is ambitious to be thought equally clever. Girls are employed, and thus properly brought up to the manifold duties of after life, and much better educated than if confined over much to the three rules, without the necessary precautions against being spoiled.

"*Restrictions as to the age at which children should be permitted to work* are certainly not applicable to this neighbourhood; the idea in my opinion is absurd. Unless they could be made a little more in earnest, and a little more thoughtful and faithful, they had much better be left alone. Females and males do in this country pretty well as they like, they are masters and mistresses of the situation.

Means of Education, &c.

"Unfortunately, at present we are confined to such contrivances as our extreme poverty can devise. Whilst the millions are voted, and massive heaps of money wasted, England, while adding ten millions every year to her treasure store, cannot give one single penny in the pound to educate the children of her bold peasantry, the country's pride."

Condition of Cottages.

"The more attention can be directed to this subject the better. The greatest national benefit ever conferred on this country was the recent Highway Act introduced by the late Earl of Cawdor, and the present Earl, by his *cottage scheme*, bids fair to emulate his predecessor. Some cottages have gardens, whilst others have not.

Desire of Eucation.

"A good school would inevitably secure a good attendance. Let it be as free as the light of the sun, in the old-fashioned paths of good will, charity, and affection, and let every patriot for ever bury every vestige of *Odium Theologicum* in the charity that suffereth long and is kind."

CLARBESTON.

Population, 191 - Acreage, 1,588.

NEWMOAT.

Population, 311 - Acreage, 3,101.

38. *The Rev. Thos. Thomas*, answering for the parishes of Clarbeston and Newmoat, says:—

"*Boys* are employed in farm labour from 15 or 16, principally in spring, summer, and autumn."

"*Girls* are not generally so employed."

"*Young women* from 17 or 18 years of age are employed in setting potatoes, making hay, and binding corn."

"*Elder women* are employed in the same manner."

"They live near their work."

"*Boys* should not go to farm work under 14 or 15 years of age, but I am not aware, after much inquiry, that any legislative restriction is needed either in their case or that of *females*.

Schools, &c.

"In Clarbeston there is only a Sunday school. In Newmoat there is a day as well as Sunday school. These schools are generally taken advantage of; in cases where they are not, the neglect arises from the indifference of the parents.

Cottages, &c.

"Our cottages are sufficient for the supply of labour required, and have gardens or allotments of land."

EGLWYSCUMMIN.

Population, 260 - Acreage, 3,740.

39. *Mr. Cornelius Davies*, occupier and guardian, says:—

"The cultivation is chiefly arable.

"*Children* are sometimes employed during harvest time, and for weeding turnips, from 8 to 10 years of age.

"We employ all the *women* we can get during harvest time.

Distance.

"Generally the women, young persons, and children live in cottages on the farm.

"The *hours of work* are from eight to nine hours.

"I do not consider it necessary or desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys or females should be permitted to work."

Schools.

"There is a very good school in our parish, and the teacher is partly paid by Mrs. Jones, of Penlan, Cardiganshire. The agricultural labourers are permitted to send their children to the school at 1*d.* a week; and I believe they take the advantage offered them by sending their children regularly, except during harvest time."

The Cottages.

"The cottages in this parish and neighbourhood are very good; they are built of native stone, and are roofed with tiles. There are some old mud houses thatched with wheat straw. The cottages are sufficient in number for the supply of labour. They are conveniently situated. There is no overcrowding here. They are well ventilated; and the parish is remarkable for good wells near the cottages."

Gardens.

"All the cottages have good gardens; and the labouring class are generally allowed a large breadth of land for setting potatoes on their employer's fields."

Wages.

"I consider the value of wages to men, including allowances, all the year to be 2*s.* a day, and during harvest time 3*s.* a day. The wages of women are worth 1*s.* 6*d.* a day all the year."

HENLLANAMGOED.

Population, 445 - Acreage, 3,651.

Cultivation chiefly pastoral.

40. *Rev. Thos. Johns*, curate in sole charge, says:—

"Farm servants are hired for the *whole* year, and are generally either *young persons* or grown up men."

"Very young girls are not employed. Only two or three women are employed (more or less) in each farm, according to the size of the farm.

"There are no stated hours of work, as the servants sleep on the farm premises.

"So far as I am aware of the custom in this parish there is no need to place any restriction on the employment of children in farm labour.

"There is a day school in the parish, and two Sunday schools. They are well attended as a rule.

"The cottages are humble enough in appearance, but upon the whole they are pretty snug and comfortable. They are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. As a rule the cottages are not over-

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

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crowded. They are generally well supplied with water, but not well ventilated.

"I should say that every little cottage has its little garden."

ST. ISSELLS.

Population, 2,022 - Acreage, 3,830.

41. *The Rev. Jas. Dalton* says :—

"*The cultivation* is mixed; about equally divided. There are several collieries in the parish. Iron ore is also procured, and clay for making fire-bricks. At one or other of the works the younger portion of our population find employment.

"Very few *boys* are employed on the farms in my parish, perhaps half-a-dozen to assist in the hay or corn fields on each farm in harvest time.

"No boys or *girls* are employed on the farms in my parish, excepting the children of labourers who are tenants to the farmer and work on his farm. There is no employment for children except in harvest time.

"Women are very little employed.

"*Women* work from 8 to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I should not think it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land."

Schools.

"There is a National school for boys and girls, and a fair proportion of children attend the schools. There are also two small private schools in different parts of the parish, of which children avail themselve whose parents live at a distance from the National schools."

Cottages, &c.

"I cannot speak favourably of the condition of the cottages in the parish of St. Issells, or its neighbourhood; they are built of mud, and roofed with thatch, and consist of two rooms on the ground floor from 8 to 12 feet square. They are sufficient in number for the supply of labour required, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Some of them must be overcrowded when the family is large, but I have never heard of any evil results to morality from this cause. They are well supplied with water from some spring near or running water. There is no ventilation except what enters through the doorway and passes out through the chimney. The cottages are without out-houses or drainage of any kind. The cottages are generally underlet by the tenant farmer to the labourers who work for him all the year round. Sometimes they are let by the landowner. The rents vary from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year, according to the size and condition of the cottage and garden."

Gardens.

"There is scarcely a cottage in the parish without a tolerably good garden for potatoes and other vegetables."

41*a*. *Mr. John Gunter*, 12 years teacher at St. Issells.

"We seldom keep children to 12 years old. They sometimes leave us at 9 or 10, as they can get work at the collieries. A boy of 10 can get from 4*d*. to 6*d*. a day at the collieries. Farm labour only interferes with young boys at this time of year, when they are wanted to herd cattle and pigs in the stubbles. I have about 45 boys on an average to teach, and I am paid 10*s*. a week. I have no other privilege. 15 boys and as many girls are taken free."

41*b*. *Mrs. Elizabeth Merriman*, teacher of the girls school, St. Issells, says :—

"I have from 60 to 70 children, girls until they leave the school, and boys under 6 years of age. We keep a good many girls till they go to service, and teach them plain needlework and knitting. Some go to work at the collieries, separating the culm from earth, &c. at the pit-mouth. I am paid 12*l*. a year."

JEFFRESTON.

Population, 634 - Acreage, 2,343.

The *Rev J. D. Palmour*, vicar, says :—

As to Employment of Boys.

"There are very few boys in the parish employed in agriculture. Some enter service at from 12 to 14, and are generally employed all the year."

As to Employment of Girls.

"None are employed under 15 years of age; after 15 chiefly in the summer months, unless they are hired by the year.

"Women are only occasionally employed."

Hours of Work.

"Working hours on farms about here are from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an allowance of two hours at noon. The labourers live at the farm houses.

"*No restriction* as to the age at which *children* should be permitted to work is desirable as regards this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a National day school and Sunday school, also a Wesleyan Sunday school. I am sorry to say from the neglect of the parents, the attendance of the children is anything but what it ought to be; and the remark applies more particularly to parents who have themselves received the benefit of early instruction."

Cottages.

"Generally speaking in my parish the cottages have greatly improved within the last 20 years, and every care has been taken to make them comfortable and convenient, being for the most part rebuilt.

"All the cottages have *gardens* attached."

LAMPETER-VELFREY.

Population, 951 - Acreage, 5,667.

Cultivation, one-half arable and one-half pastoral.

43. *The Rev. R. Lewis*, rector and rural dean, says :—

"*Boys* are employed from about 13 or 14, when they are generally hired by the year, at first to do odd jobs such as driving cows to and from pasture, looking after pigs and poultry, cleaning out stables and cow-houses, until in a year or two they begin to drive a team.

"*Young girls* generally go out at first to take charge of a baby, often as young as 12 years of age; from this post they pass in a year or two to be under dairymaids and are employed very much as boys of the same age.

"There are very few farms on which *women* are employed except to make hay, reap, and dig potatoes. The work is done on most farms by those who live in the farm house. The farms are small and the farmer's wife and daughters and perhaps one hired maid do all the women's work except that alluded to above."

Hiring of Children.

"Children are generally hired by the year and live in their employer's house. For the first year they get their food and presents of clothes or a very small sum as wages. There are no stated hours of work."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be employed.

"I do not think any such restriction is necessary in this neighbourhood."

Means of Education, &c.

"There are two Church of England schools in the parish (*see* School Returns,—G.C.) and one Dissenting

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School. The parents generally allow the children to do as they like, they are themselves indifferent about their education. Where there is a popular master the children like going to school and have their own way. Early labour is not in my opinion a preventing cause."

Condition of Cottages and Morality.

"Many cottages are in an unsatisfactory condition, badly ventilated and overcrowded; I believe they are sufficient for the supply of labour required. The state of morality so far as intercourse between the sexes is concerned is exceedingly low; it is a rare thing for a young woman of the labouring class to be married before she is a mother or about to be one."

Gardens.

"Almost all the cottages have gardens sufficiently large for the growth of all vegetables except potatoes; ground for these is usually supplied by the farmer by whom the occupants are employed."

Change in Dress.

"It is worthy of observation that in this neighbourhood in consequence probably of a change in female dress from the coat and jacket formerly worn to the modern style common now in this country as well as in England, and owing also to the increasing love of smart clothes which are now within reach of the lower orders a vastly increasing number of young females seek employment in sewing."

43*a*. *Mr. W. H. Sheild*, landowner, occupier, and guardian, says, "The cultivation is generally very bad, a large acreage of what ought to be cultivated is a waste, and from want of drainage some of the pasture land is nearly worthless.

"*Boys* are generally above 13 years of age before they are employed in agriculture, and as a rule are hired by the farmers and live with them through the year; for a few weeks in the summer and autumn they are employed singling green crops and in the harvest field, but none are employed under 12 years of age.

"*Girls* are hired into the houses more as domestic servants than in farm labour, and are generally upwards of 13 years old; the same rule applies as much to the boys as the girls.

"Women are employed in haymaking, and where green crops are grown from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; in harvest time they work later, but very seldom after 7 p.m. In the winter they are employed in the barns occasionally and by the small farmers in looking after their cattle.

"Throughout the parish they reside upon the farms or within a quarter of a mile of their work. There is not the slightest occasion for any restriction to be placed on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land as the labour of children under 12 is not profitable and they are better at school.

"There are two good schools under the management of the rector and one belonging to the Independents.

"The *cottages* have been allowed to become ruins throughout the whole district, so much so that were farmers with capital to be desirous of cultivating the land there are no cottages for them without rebuilding and that to a considerable extent. What cottages there are are not overcrowded, there is generally plenty of pure water close to them. The cottagers have an intense hatred to open windows.

"The gardens are generally very large and adjoin their cottages. Potatoe ground is generally very reasonable from the custom of paying so many days work in the harvest for each load of dung; this custom has arisen from the non-employment of able-bodied labourers by those who give their dung for potatoes as a means of getting men to cut their corn.

"Where a labourer is kept he is usually hired for the year at 1*s*. a day and his food, working from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; others earn about 12*s*. to 13*s*.: hours 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. according to the season."

43*b*. *Mr. Thos. Davidson*, occupier, says, "The cultivation is very indifferent with few exceptions.

"*Very few boys* are employed under 13 years of age (with the exception of bird herding); from that age upwards they are generally hired from year to year and board in the employers' houses.

"*Girls* are employed as indoor servants and to do dairy work from 12 years of age.

"*Women* are employed about six months in the year, potatoe planting, turnip hoeing, hay making, harvesting, and turnip trimming. I employ sometimes ten women, but average four.

"The *distance* labourers have to go to their work is from half a mile to a mile and a half."

Hours of work.

"*Team men* from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"*Women* from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"*Horses*, 9 hours per day.

"*No restriction* as to the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land is needed in this parish.

"I have never known children or females overworked."

Schools.

"There are two good schools mainly supported by the Rev. R. Lewis, minister of the parish, and one by the Dissenters, the parents do not quite appreciate the advantages offered to them although the children are seldom employed in agriculture until the age of 14.

"The *cottages* are generally in fair condition.

"There are good *gardens* almost without exception, and some have allotments.'

Mode of Hiring and Value of Wages.

"The board for labourers in some farm houses is broth for breakfast and dinner and supper with bread and cheese, adding a little bacon for dinner of what the broth has been made. The better farmers give tea, bread, and butter for breakfast, with meat, vegetables and bread for dinner, broth with potatoes, bread and cheese for supper.

"Average wages from 10*s*. to 11*s*. per week."

LLANBOIDY.

Population, 1,744 - Acreage, 10,666.

Cultivation mixed.

44. *Mr. W. R. H. Powell*, J.P., landowner, says:—

"*Boys* are employed from 10 years of age.

"*Girls* are taken to farm houses to nurse, fetch the cows, and assist about the house from about 10 years of age."

Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land?

"As it is *not uncommon* to find parents so indifferent to their children's welfare as to allow them to grow up in a state of gross ignorance without even the excuse of having occupation for them or need of such service as they may be able to render, I think children should in justice be protected from such grievous injury by parents being liable to penalties when the school attendance of their children under the age of 12 years is such as to be unsatisfactory to the managers of the school or some constituted authority.

"There is no necessity to restrict the employment of females in this district when employed above 12 years of age."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school mentioned in Blue Book 1868-69 as the best in the county, and to

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which children of labourers are admitted at one penny each per week. A good attendance drawn from a radius of quite three miles may be cited as proof that the means of education are very generally taken advantage of, but the benefits of education in too many cases are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration to be derived from child labour. The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the school children should be made to speak English during play hours."

Cottages.

"The cottages are poor but clean; they are not sufficient in number for the labour required nor conveniently situated for the farms."

Gardens.

"The gardens are better than the cottages and are quite large enough."

LLANDEWY-VELFREY, WITH CRINOW.

Population, 860 - Acreage, 4,374.

45. *The Rev. D. Jones*, vicar, says :—

"The cultivation is chiefly pastoral, and the only employment is in agriculture.

"Boys are employed from 12 to 13 years of age and upwards; they hire themselves as agricultural servants by the year from Michaelmas to Michaelmas.

"Girls are employed as farm servants as soon as the parents can procure places for them.

"Women are employed in haymaking and corn harvest, and the time varies according to circumstances.

"No restriction on the age of children employed in agriculture is necessary as far as my knowledge extends.

"All children are admitted to the church school at 1*d.* a week without any distinction as to creed; they attend tolerably well.

"Some of the cottages are pretty good, and others are indifferent.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens."

45*a*. *Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis*, landowner, occupier, and J.P., says, "There is very little corn grown in this parish, the land is almost all pasture and held by dairymen.

"Boys are very seldom employed in this parish. I only employ one, about 11 years old, to take care of the poultry.

"Very few girls are employed; none under 13, and then only in haymaking.

"Women are employed in haymaking, and a few about mangolds and turnips.

"No one has to go more than half a mile to his work.

"The hours of work for men are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner.

"I do not think that it is at all necessary to put any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work, but, if possible, it would be well to compel the parents to send their children to school.

"There are two schools, one a Church of England school and the other a dissenting school, they are generally taken advantage of; but the parents do not compel the children to attend regularly. The cause of non-attendance is the carelessness of parents.

"The cottages are very poor, the common two-roomed cottage with mud floor; they are not sufficient for the supply of the labour, they are conveniently situated for the farms. In some instances they are overcrowded; no evil results to morality have come under my notice. The cottages are generally well supplied with water, but are badly ventilated.

"All the cottages have gardens.

"The wages of farm labourers are 9*s.* a week all the year round; but in hay and corn harvest they earn more, which amounts to about 1*l.* 10*s.* in the year, they have a cottage and garden for which they pay 2*l.* a year."

45*b*. *Mr. John Morgan*, occupier, says :—

"Farm labourers' wages are for the year round 1*s.* a day and food; if they don't have food they have from 9*s.* to 10*s.* a week.

"Labourers who live in cottages belonging to the farmers have 9*s.* a week and pay about 40*s.* a year rent.

"*Women* would work at any farm work if they could get it, but there is very little else but haymaking and harvest work for them. They are paid 8*d.* a day, with dinner and supper. Some farmers only pay women 8*d.* and give them a drop of beer twice a day.

"We pay for mowing 2*s.* to 3*s.* an acre, and the men work very hard, beginning at 2 in the morning.

"I pay a catch workman, who thatches for me, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and his meat.

"Wages have not increased in this parish for five or six years.

"The dairy farmers require very little labour, except what girls can do.

"Dairy girls get about 6*l.* or 7*l.* A farmer's house servant (female) gets about 6*l.*

"The food of a labourer's family here would be pretty nearly as follows :—

"Breakfast, tea and bread and butter or cheese.

"Dinner, potatoes and butter milk or cheese.

"Supper, the same, or flummery and butter milk. The cheese is made from skim milk, and very few of our labourers keep a cow.

"The labourer whom the farmer keeps has meat at dinner, and broth at breakfast and dinner. It is good for him but bad for his family."

45*c*. *Mr. Levi Parry*, Master of Llandewy Velfrey Church School, says :—

"I generally keep the boys at school till they are from 12 to 13; but the attendance is irregular, generally through the fault of the parents; we also labour under the difficulty, in winter, of the children having a long way to come, some of them three miles.

"The girls leave about the same age as the boys.

"The land in this parish is most of it in grass, and about half of the labourers keep cows, some one, some three or four. Some of our land is so good that 1½ acres will keep a cow all the year round.

"I have known grass land let by auction at 6*l.* an acre, while in the north of the parish the land is not worth 10*s.* an acre. The cows would be a great blessing to the labourers' families if they had not to pay so high a rent.

"Our people, as a rule, are very sober. We have very little agricultural labour in the parish, and our young men go off to the works, but they are better off at home when they can get work. At the works they spend most of their money in drink."

LLANDISSILIO.

Population, 1,036 - Acreage, 6,467.

46. *Rev. D. Jones*, vicar, says :—

"*Boys* are employed in farm labour from 12 to 14 years of age and upwards; the elder boys are hired from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, the younger hired for harvest time only.

"*Girls* are employed as farm servants at from 14 years of age upwards; the older and more proficient, those from 20 years and upwards, as dairymaids; the younger and less proficient, as what are termed 'barn floor girls,' whose occupation consists of feeding the cattle, &c., doing such farm work as hoeing turnips, weeding, &c., and also helping the dairymaid in her work.

"The *distance* labourers go to their work, is, I should say, from a mile and a half to two miles. When they

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give voluntary aid, as in the time of haymaking, perhaps, they go further; but I should say that the distance, as a rule, does not exceed two miles.

"Labourers *work* from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Restrictions on Labour.

"In this neighbourhood I should say that no restriction on the employment of children is desirable."

Schools.

"One Madam Bevan's circulating Free School for the church and two schools in connexion with the Baptist denomination; advantage is taken of them, especially during the winter months. The chief causes of non-attendance are bad weather, very bad roads, and also remissness on the part of the parents."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is poor. They are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required. As a rule they are built on the farms, therefore are conveniently situated; some of the cottages are overcrowded, no evil result has come under my notice in consequence; the water supply is good, ventilation as a rule very bad."

Gardens.

"A cottage without a garden is a great exception to the rule."

46*a*. *Mr. R. F. Gower*, landowner, says:—

"*Children* above 12 years of age are employed in hay time and harvest and in weeding turnips.

"Women are also employed in the work above described.

"All live within a mile of their work.

"Women in summer work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ to 2 hours allowed for meals; in winter they are never employed.

"The labour of boys might be restricted to those over 10 years of age.

"No restriction as to the labour of girls is necessary in this district."

Schools.

"There are two schools; one belonging to the dissenters and the other to the church. The first having the largest attendance because it has the best master. The church school is for three years only being supported by Mrs. Bevan's Charity, which goes from parish to parish."

Cottages.

"The cottages are not over good, might be much better. In this parish they have been built generally by subscription (stone being obtained from the landlord). They are not overcrowded; most of them have gardens and are near water."

46*b*. *Mr. Stephen Williams*, 21 years master of the Dissenting School at Llandissilio, says:—

"I generally keep the children of the labouring class till they are 11.

"The parents take more interest than they did, but some still neglect their children."

LLANFALTEG.

Population, 353 - Acreage, 1,866.

Cultivation mixed.

47. The *Rev. Thos. Evans*, rector, says:—

"*Boys* are generally employed about 12 years old, and for the most part all the year round.

"*Girls* are not employed, except as farm servants and they go out about 12 years of age.

"*No women* are employed in agriculture.

"*The hours of work* are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., except in harvest.

"I think it is not desirable to place any restriction on the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land as far as regards this parish."

Means of Education, &c.

"There is a school lately established in the parish, and the children do take advantage of it."

State of Cottages.

"Rather indifferent. I think they are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required, and are conveniently situated. Some are overcrowded, but no evil results have come under my notice in consequence. They are well supplied with water and well ventilated.

"All the cottages have gardens."

LLANGAN.

Population, 641 - Acreage, 4,952.

48. *The Rev. Richard Jones*, curate in charge, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed, depending chiefly on the dairy.

"*Boys* are hired as servant boys for the year at 14 or 15 years of age and upwards. No children under 13 are employed here in agriculture.

"No *girls* are employed in agriculture. There are some employed nursing children even under 13.

"*Women* are generally employed on the farms at hay and corn harvest, not otherwise, except by chance."

As to restricting the Age of Employment for Boys.

"No restriction whatever is wanted in this parish, but there are parishes in South Wales where restriction may be desirable. I should say 14 would be a proper limit."

As to restricting the Age of Employment for Girls.

"It may be desirable in certain districts, but it is not wanted in this parish."

Schools.

"We have a very superior school-house here in the middle of the parish, a village close by, and there is a school here. Some bring their penny a week, others too poor or too remiss. We have no certificated master at present so no Government grant, and our funds are rather low."

Cottages.

"The cottages are mostly mud walls and straw thatch, too small generally, and many have only one or too rooms at most. There is one cottage generally on each farm. There are few villages in Wales. Some of the cots rather too crowded; but the children are out to service at 14 or 15. The cottages are well supplied with water, but not so well ventilated."

Gardens.

"All the cottages have good gardens, which are tolerably well cultivated."

LLANGLYDWEN.

Population, 286 - Acreage, 1,834.

49. *The Rev John Jones*, rector, says:—

"*Boys* as a rule are not employed in this neighbourhood in agricultural labour, excepting such as are hired for a year, the youngest in my service is between 12 and 13; the time of hiring is in November.

"*Girls* are only employed as in-door servants, hired for a year, the youngest in my service is about 14; they generally commence service when about 13.

"I believe the laws which regulate the employment of children in this neighbourhood are the poverty of the parents on the one hand, and the scarcity of labourers on the other. I am not prepared to offer an opinion as to whether it would be useful or not to disturb the natural order of things by conventional laws; as far as this locality is concerned I am inclined to think not.

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"There is no *school* in the parish, but there are two schools within a short distance. I believe the poor avail themselves of these as far as their circumstances will allow.

"The *cottages* in this parish are generally in a very poor condition, being low thatched hovels, but they are not over-crowded, and their occupants are generally as contented and healthy as their neighbours.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens belonging to them."

LLANGOLMAN and LLANDILO.

Population, 408 - Acreage, 4,044.

Cultivation mixed.

50. *The Rev. T. Walters*, says:—

"*Boys* are employed at about 12 years of age for light work on farms, and also in quarries in this district.

"*Girls* are also employed by the farmers from 12 to 14 years of age, to milk the cows and nurse children, and to help in many other ways in the harvest time.

"Women are not employed to any great extent.

"Labourers go from half-a-mile to 1½ miles to their work.

"Labourers work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer.

"If any *restriction on the age at which children should work* is necessary, which I do not think, I would place the limit at from 12 to 14."

Schools.

"There is no school in the Llangolman parish, but there is one in the adjoining parish of Llandisilio and a school at Maenclochog; the children take advantage of both schools until they are able to go out to service."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is fair in this parish, and they are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. The people in this mountainous district have plenty of fresh air and a good supply of well water."

Gardens.

"The cottages have gardens, and often they have land to keep a cow, but the last privilege is seldom granted by the farmers now, except in the case of an old lease, when they cannot take away their allotments and add it to their farms."

LLANYCEFN.

Population, 416 - Acreage, 2,684.

Cultivation mixed.

51. *The Rev. L. Davies*, vicar, says:—

"*Boys* are generally employed on the different farms in the parish about 12 years of age and upwards, and occasionally at all times of the year.

"*Girls* are also employed from about 12 years of age, chiefly in domestic service.

"*Women* are not employed to any certain or fixed extent.

"The *distance* they have to go to work is short, as they are employed generally on the respective farms of their parents or friends in the parish.

"They have no fixed *hours of work*.

"I believe that it is not desirable to place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land in this parish."

Schools.

"There is no school whatever in the parish; some of the children are taught by their parents, and others at schools in the adjoining parishes."

Cottages.

"The cottages in the parish and neighbourhood are in a fair condition; they are sufficient for the supply of labour; they are conveniently situated for the farms; they are not over-crowded."

Gardens.

"All the cottages in the parish have good gardens, conveniently situated for the use of the labourers and their families."

LLYS-Y-FRANE.

Population, 168 - Acreage, 1,466.

Cultivation mixed.

52. *The Rev. W. B. Thomas*, says:—

"*Boys* are hired for the year at Michaelmas. They receive wages (from 3*l.* to 8*l.*) and their food at the farm house; they are seldom hired before 14 years of age."

"*Girls* are hired in the same way as boys. Children are seldom employed, except in haymaking and harvest, or perhaps in nursing in chance cases for short periods."

"*Women* weed corn and gardens. In rare cases they fill carts, but the practice is dying out."

Hours of Work.

"People work by the day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Yearly servants have no fixed hours, but are not over-worked."

As to restricting the age at which children should be permitted to work on land. For boys,—

"I think it would be well to limit the age to 12, provided the education of the boys up to that time were made obligatory."

For Girls,—

"I think restriction is not necessary, but a provision for girls' education similar to that of boys would be good."

Schools.

"A British school has lately been provided; many take advantage of it, but parents are not sufficiently sensible of the advantages of education, and some children are kept at home and have no education."

Cottages.

"The cottages are generally built of earth and straw and thatched; or of stone and mortar, and slated. The rooms are seldom more than two in all, and are about 10 feet square. They are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are often over-crowded with members of the family, but no evil results to morality arise from this cause. They have plenty of good water and are well ventilated and fairly drained. They are without outhouses, excepting a pigstye or shed. The cottages are owned by the proprietor of the farms on which they are built. They are sometimes built by the cottagers on a sort of lease. Rents vary from 1*l.* to 3*l.* with garden."

Cows and Gardens.

"Most of the cottagers have cows, generally one cow per cottage; those who have no cow have a garden."

LOVESTON.

Population, 122 - Acreage, 1,233.

53. *The Rev. W. Bowling*, says:—

"*The cultivation* is about two-thirds arable.

"Our population consists of 59 males and 63 females, of whom not more than 20 are children.

"Women are employed in the turnip and harvest seasons, but only on the farm on which they live. They work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is not desirable to restrict the age at which children should be allowed to work.

"There is a very good *school* about a mile and a half from the church.

"*The cottages* are poor of their kind, but clean and comfortable. There are very few of them, as the

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work of the farms is generally done by servants living in the house.

"The cottagers generally have large gardens; they also have potatoes set for them in the farmer's field."

LUDCHURCH.

Population, 264 - Acreage, 1,607.

54. *Mr. John Lewis*, occupier says:—

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age and upwards as hired servants."

"*Girls* are employed from about 13 years of age and upwards in field work, and as helpers in dairy work.

"*Women* are employed in work connected with the dairy, weeding, hoeing, haymaking, and harvest work.

"Labourers have not more than a mile, generally less than half, to go to their work.

"*Women* work from 8 to 12 in the morning, and from 2 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon."

"*No restriction* on the labour of children is necessary in this district."

Schools.

"There is one school kept by an uncertificated master. What is wanted here is a more competent master, a better class schoolroom, the parishioners to have some part in the management, and to be under Government inspection."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages in this parish is bad, and they have undergone no modern improvement, and contain one or two rooms, with the exception of a couple on Hill Farm. The number of cottages is quite sufficient for the supply of the labour as at present required, and they are conveniently situated with regard to the farms; a few are overcrowded with large families, but I cannot say that any evil results to morality have come under my notice in consequence. There is a good supply of water everywhere in the parish."

Gardens, &c.

"I do not know of one cottage in the parish that has not a good sized garden; a great many of the cottagers have small farms. Half the labourers in his parish are small farmers."

MAENCLOCHOG.

Population, 396 - Acreage, 2,754.

Cultivation mixed.

55. *Rev. T. Walters*, vicar, says:—

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years old.

"*Girls* become useful to farmers from 12 to 14 years of age."

Distance Labourers go to Work.

"The young men who go to the slate quarry have little more than a mile from the village to go. The women go to the farms about here to work during harvest. The distance is not more than one mile."

Hours of Work.

"Quarry men work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; women work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be allowed to work.

"I would place the limit at 12; but I think no restriction, especially in this district, is necessary."

Schools.

"There is a school in this village supported by subscriptions from landed proprietors. The schoolhouse is a wretched one, which prevents us getting any aid from Government. The children take advantage of this school, and it is crowded in the winter quarter."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages in this village and throughout the parish is very bad, *quite uninhabitable*. Cottages ought to be built for the quarry men and labourers, which would remunerate the owners, and would tend to improve the condition and comfort of the poorer class, as well as their morality."

Gardens.

"The cottages (such as we have) have gardens."

Wages.

"The wages are fair, from 12*s.* to 21*s.* Labourers are very scarce here, owing principally to the slate quarries, where they get constant work and good wages."

MARTLETWY.

Population, 703 - Acreage, 3,551.

Cultivation mixed.

56. The *Rev. Thomas Williams*, curate, says:—

"*Boys* are seldom employed to any extent except as servants.

"*Girls* are rarely employed except a few peeling trees in the season.

"*Women* are scarcely employed at all except in harvest time.

"*Women* work generally from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is *not* desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land.

"It is not desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females in agriculture.

"There is a Church of England school; the children take advantage of it.

"The condition of the cottages is fair generally. They are quite sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required. They are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are not overcrowded; well supplied with water; ventilation tolerable.

"The cottages have good gardens allotted to them generally."

MINWERE.

Population, 99 - Acreage, 1,957.

57. *Mr. Theophilus Llewellyn*, occupier, says, "I farm 280 acres, of which about 25 acres are arable. I employ a man and lad, and two boys. I would have more land in tillage if I could get labour conveniently."

"I can only get a labourer occasionally, when I pay him in winter 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and his food, and in summer 2*s.* a day and food. There is only one cottage on my farm. There were a good many at one time, but they were pulled down, or allowed to fall down.

"In Minwere and the adjoining parish of Newton are the ruins of two parish churches (there being now no church in either parish), and 50 or 60 cottages, all pulled down or allowed to fall into decay during the last 30 years.

"There is no school in either parish."

NARBERTH with ROBESTON-WATHEN.

Population, 2,079 - Acreage, 7,429.

58. *Mrs. Matthias*, says:—

"My husband works on the line; he has 14*s.* a week. We have two bedrooms upstairs, but we cannot use them, they are so hot in this weather. We all (husband and wife and three children) sleep in this room (a very small kitchen) in these two beds (beds which, like many I saw in Wales, shut up in the day time). We pay 3*l.* for our cottage and garden."

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

O.

58*a*. *William Morris*, labourer, says, "We have only one room open to the roof (a thatched roof), and this mud floor isn't over good. I pay 2*l*. for the cottage and little bit of garden.

"I have brought up 16 children of my own in this cottage, and my wife has taken in 10 children (bastards) for girls to nurse."

58*b*. *D. Williams*, labourer, living in a cottage with two small rooms on ground floor, says, "I pay about 50*s*., rates and all, for my cottage. About 2½ tons of culm made into balls (for firing) lasts me a year. We pay 3½*d*. a cwt. at the pit for the culm, and leadage costs about 4*s*. a ton."

58*c*. *Mrs. Scorey*, wife of a labourer living in Robeston-Wathen, says, "We came here from Hampshire. Labourers wages here are 10*s*. a week, where we came from they were 12*s*. There are very few regular labourers here; most of the people have a bit of land, and they are pretty well off. Some keep 5 to 10 cows, and occasionally work for other people. I think the people here live very hard, but not because they are forced to do it; they sell the best they have, and put up with anything. They live a good deal on barley-bread, potatoes, and Welsh cheese (worth from 2*d*. to 2½*d*. a pound). We use white bread, and make our own bread. I like the people here as well as I did those in Hampshire."

58*d*. EVIDENCE of a boy who drove the Assistant Commissioner from Narberth Road.

"I am going to my 12, sir. I can't read nor write. I've only been at school for about a month, and this here schoolmaster is good for nothing to teach anything. My father 's going to send me to Haverford-west to school, and if I can get to be a scholar my brother says he can get me a place in London, on the Great Western Railway."

SOUTH NARBERTH.

Population, 829 - Acreage 3,476.

59. *The Rev. —— Cornish*, says,

"I would restrict the age at which *boys* should be employed on the land to 13.

"Other occupations should be sought for *females*, it would conduce to the interests of morality."

Schools.

"Very inadequate means of education are provided in this parish; of these the agricultural labouring class is slow to take advantage, from poverty as well as early labour."

Cottages.

"The cottages are very bad; in many cases overcrowded. They are ill supplied with water, and ill ventilated, without back window or door. They have very fair gardens."

PENDINE.

Population, 204 - Acreage, 900.

60. *The Rev. D. Thomas*, rector, says:—

"The cultivation is mixed; more arable than pastoral.

"*Boys* are employed at a very early age, but most of them being farmers' sons they are never overdriven; they are only called upon to do what they can. Servant boys, if young, are well cared for.

"*Girls*, if young, are only employed in some light household work. They are engaged from 10 upwards. I never heard of one ill-treated or overworked. They are not easily found; they marry very young, and off they go to Merthyr.

"*Women* are employed a little in hay harvest and in binding corn; some few, if they can be had, are employed in hoeing turnips.

"The *distance* labourers have to go to their work is hardly ever more than a mile.

"*Hours of work* of *women* are from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m., an hour being allowed at noon.

"I see no necessity that the legislature should interfere and place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land. I have never heard of a child being ill-treated."

Schools.

"There are schools in abundance in the neighbourhood, and a few take advantage of them. There is much difficulty to please the parents; and too many are quite unconcerned whether the children attend or not; early labour does not prevent them."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is decent; there are some of them small. Much of the state of the cottage depends upon the wife; I should say all; indeed, if the cottage is not tidy it is the fault of the wife. There is often more misery in the well-to-do cottage than in the poorer one. Labourers from a distance sleep at the farm house. Immorality prevails more in the farm-house than in the cottage. The cottages are generally well supplied with water. Ventilation proceeds from the door."

Gardens.

"Most of the cottages have gardens, enough to supply them with vegetables. Potatoes for a winter stock they generally plant on farm lands; they work so many days in harvest with the farmer for the setting of a certain quantity of potatoes. In the parish of Pendine there are three acres of land allotted to the poor by the Inclosure Commissioners, but they make no use of it."

PENDINE ALLOTMENT OF LAND FOR THE POOR.

60*a*. COPY of Letter to the Assistant Commissioner from the *Rev. David Thomas*.

August 16, 1869.

"FROM inquiries I have made since I received your letter, I learn that the plot of ground set apart for the use of the poor in the parish of Pendine by the Inclosure Commissioners is most disadvantageously situated, being difficult of approach, open to trespass by sheep and cattle, and liable to a charge of 1*l*. yearly rent, to be paid to the Lord of the Manor; but it is said that if it were used, it is very likely the Lord of the Manor would return the rent to the occupiers. A very undesirable piece of ground it must be confessed has been selected for their use."

SLEBECH (with Minwere and Newton).

Population, 435 - Acreage, 7,264.

61. The *Rev. Benjamin Thomas*, curate in charge, says:—

"*No boys* under 13 are employed in farm labour.

"*Very few girls* are employed in this parish.

"*A few women* are employed in hoeing turnips, hay and corn harvests.

"Labourers go about a mile to their work.

"Women work nine hours."

As to restricting the Age of Employment.

"*Boys* can be usefully employed in *light work* on a farm at 10 years of age.

"*Girls* can be usefully employed at 12 years of age. I do not think there should be any restriction."

Schools.

"There is a school in this parish supported by the Rev. H. A. Philipps, of Picton Castle, who is also the vicar of St. Mary's, Haverford-west. The school is very well attended and the education imparted very superior. There are no schools in Minwere or Newton, the children attend Narberth school."

Cottages.

"There has lately been a great improvement made in this parish, many new cottages have been built and others repaired, and there are some now building; in some degree other parishes supply the

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labour. Instances of overcrowding are very few, and I know of no bad results in consequence.

"All the cottages have pretty good gardens; there are no allotments."

61*a*. *Mr. H. P. Goode*, agent for the Rev. J. H. A. Philipps, of Picton Castle, speaking chiefly with reference to the Picton Castle estate and Slebech parish, says:—

"*Boys* from 10 to 15 years of age are employed chiefly in winter and spring.

"*Girls* above 14 are sometimes employed about hay making, turnip hoeing, and barking in the woods until they draft off to service as nursemaids, &c.

"*Women* are employed in field work when required, they make hay, weed the garden, clean up the yards, hoe turnips, bark timber, &c."

Distance they have to go to work.

"About one to two miles."

Hours of work.

"According to circumstances. Haymaking, 10 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m.; other work, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; barking timber, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., allowing time for meals."

As to restricting the Age at which Boys should be permitted to work.

"There should be no restriction when they are equal to their work; 13 or 14 is a reasonable age."

As to restriction on the Employment of Females in Agriculture.

"It is not desirable to place any restriction in this county or on this estate. They generally prefer out-door work, the open air tends to make them cheerful."

Schools, &c.

"The proprietor has provided a school, pays a master and mistress 40*l*. with a good house and garden rent free. The master gets a weekly addition from those who can afford to pay. The report of the children's attendance is very good; about 60 on an average attend."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

"The majority of the cottages are very good, there are some occupied by very old people which are not very good, but they pray to be allowed to occupy them in preference to new ones, which otherwise would have been provided for them. The majority are about 75 years of age."

Gardens, Wages, &c.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens; the cottagers keep poultry, most of them a pig; some have land on the outskirts and keep a cow or two.

"Wages are nearly uniform for all ages, 9*s*. a week with cottage and garden rent free, their coals driven for them and sundry other privileges worth in all 12*s*. per week."

YERBESTON.

Population, 118 - Average, 1,224.

62. The *Rev. Wm. Bowling*, says,

"The *cultivation* is about two-thirds arable.

"Our population consists of 53 males and 65 females, of whom not more than 20 are children.

"Women are employed in the turnip and harvest seasons, but only on the farm on which they live. They work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is not desirable to restrict the age at which children should be allowed to work.

"There is a very good *school* about a mile and a half from the church.

"The *cottages* are poor of their kind but clean and comfortable. There are very few of them, as the work of the farms is generally done by servants living in the house.

"The cottagers generally have large *gardens;* they also have potatoes set for them in the farmer's field."

CARMARTHEN UNION.

LLANGAIN.

Population, 393 - Acreage, 2,660.

63. *Mr. W. E. B. Gwyn*, J.P., landowner and occupier, says:—

"The *cultivation* is mixed, there being a large proportion of old pasture and meadow land. The acreage of land under corn and cultivation is comparatively small, and as a consequence the number of women and children employed is also small. Our population is I believe now considerably less than 393, as for the last few years some of my best men have been leaving for Glamorganshire, not being able to find constant employment at home as well as being tempted by higher wages.

"Very few *boys* are employed under 13 years in our parish generally; an orphan may sometimes be taken of a younger age and employed in herding pigs and poultry or some such easy work. Almost every farm has one or two or three boys from 13 years to 25 hired as yearly servants, the elder being ploughboys.

"*Girls* are employed at very similar ages to boys and as yearly servants.

"Women are employed to a very small extent as compared with many English counties. Very few green crops being grown the field work is small. Being myself a considerable grower of roots I employ nearly as many women taking all the year round as all the parish put together."

Distance Labourers have to go to work.

"The longest would be about half a mile. Nearly all the labourers live on or near the farms where they are employed."

Hours of Work.

"*Men* work from 10 to 11 hours.

"*Women* work 9 hours."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be permitted to work.

"I do not consider any restriction necessary."

Schools, &c.

"There is no good school in the parish, but in the immediate outskirts we have a qualified Government teacher who has a large number of pupils, and I believe I am right when I say there is not in the parish a man who does not as often as his means allow avail himself of the advantage when within his reach. I am happy to say that we shall have a qualified teacher in the parish in September next."

Cottages.

"The cottages generally are dry and comfortable, not over well ventilated; they are nearly all on the farms where their occupiers are employed or within easy reach, not more than half a mile. None are to my knowledge overcrowded, and they are invariably within a short distance of a good well of water."

Gardens and Potatoe Ground.

"Every cottage has attached to it a garden considered sufficient, and every labourer gets a piece of ground for his potatoes with his employer, the cultivation, manuring, and horse labour being all done by the farmer; the labourer gets all his coals hauled also."

Wages and Hiring.

"I pay my labourers 10*s*. a week and a cottage and garden rent free, with potatoe ground and haulage of coals, which altogether will amount to 12*s*.

"Ten or twelve years ago every labourer lived on barley-bread and cheese and fed and killed a small pig; now all live on good wheaten bread, and the thrifty and good managers have always a good pig at Christmas."

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

o.

LLANGENDEIRNE.

Population, 2,355 - Acreage, 11,810.

64. *Mr. John Evans*, occupier and guardian, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed."

"*Boys* are not employed before 12, and then regularly, or more correctly saying, they are more employed in winter than in summer.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age as boys, but not in the same occupation.

"*Women* are employed at harvest and their employment is somewhat general in summer.

"Labourers work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I hardly think it necessary to restrict the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land, but I would limit the age to 12 if any restriction is necessary."

Schools.

"National or church schools are not the proper ones, they should be British. Parents who are Dissenters object to sending their children to school for the reason that they conscientiously differ in views.

"The cottages are very bad; they are sufficient in number for the supply of labour required, and are generally well situated with respect to the farms.

"The cottages have good gardens."

Wages of Ordinary Farm Labourers, &c.

"Some get 15*s.* and some 14*s.*; I think you may strike the average at 14*s.* 6*d.* including everything."

LLANGUNNOR.

Population, 1,250 - Acreage, 5,795.

65. *Mr. D. Prosser*, owner and occupier, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed.

"*Boys* are hired as farm servants by the year from 12 years of age, upwards.

"*Girls* are employed in the same manner and at the same age as boys.

"*Women* are only employed in spring and summer in weeding green crops and at harvest work.

"*Women* work from 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m.

"*No restriction* on the ages at which children ought to be allowed to work is necessary."

Schools.

"There is a good parish school well attended; the children pay 1*d.* or 2*d.* a week according to age.

"The condition of the cottages is bad.

"All cottages have gardens."

Wages and Mode of Hiring.

"Mostly all by the year; men earn from 14*l.* to 20*l.* with food and lodgings, if single. Females from 5*l.* to 10*l.*, according to age and capabilities; labourers, who find themselves, earn 12*s.* a week."

65*a*. *Mr. V. Rees*, occupier, says :—

"I employ as many women as I can get, singling turnips and spreading manure, &c., and some women in dairy work. I pay women 8*d.* in winter and 10*d.* in summer, and I give tea and beer in long days. They begin work at 8½ a.m. and work till 6 p.m., with an hour's interval.

"I hire three dairy girls by the year. They get 10*l.*, 7*l.*, and 4*l.*

"I hire two lads by the year; one of 16 gets 6*l.*; one of 12 gets 50*s.* and a pair of boots.

"Ordinary labourers I pay 12*s.* a week, and in hay time I have to give 15*s.* It is better for a man's family that he should get all money than that he should get his food and less money. Our labourers are very well off where their families are able to work out."

LLANDILOFAWR UNION.

LLANDEBIE.

Population, 2,821 - Acreage, 10,710.

66. *Mr. J. Brodie*, occupier, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed.

"I employ *one boy* on each farm, age from 14 to 18. In the neighbourhood, hay and corn harvests are the times that all hands are called out.

"*Girls* are employed occasionally on the smaller farms, but I should say not so young as boys.

"*Women* are employed on arable farms to a considerable extent, but this county is chiefly pastoral and few green crops are grown."

Distance they come to Work.

"A few may be a mile off, and one or two rather more.

"Their *hours of work* are not very regular, they seldom turn out till 8 o'clock. My hours are from 6 to 11 and from 1 to 6 in summer; in winter they are allowed 1½ hours for dinner.

"*Boys* cannot be much use on a farm under 14 or 15.

"I cannot see any necessity for restricting female labour in this part of the country."

Schools.

"There is a large British and Foreign School on the farm, with upwards of 100 attending. Early labour on farms does not prevent children attending school, not so with other employments."

Cottages.

"The agricultural cottages in South Wales on the whole are rather poor, but improvement is slowly going on; they appear to be sufficient in number for the supply of labour generally. Young people are frequently kept in the farmhouse. There is plenty of water and ventilation in Wales. All cottages have gardens."

Wages.

"Men's wages vary from 13*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* 6*d.* per week, including allowances."

Quality of Labour.

"The Scotch labourers are better educated, and, perhaps, more trustworthy in every way than the Welsh, but really there are good and bad amongst both; I am getting more and more into Welsh, about half and half now.

LLANDILO-FAWR.

Population, 5,440 - Acreage, 25,628.

67. The *Rev. D. W. Jeffreys*, of Taliaris, says :—

"The cultivation is indifferent, there is no system in the rotation of crops. There is too much crude lime given to the arable land and no artificial manure. Farms are small and capital often smaller. Many of the small occupiers can hardly make the two ends meet, and their children are forced to labour too soon, thereby losing the opportunity of learning, even if the parents appreciated its value, which, I regret to add, they do not.

"Boys begin to be employed from six upwards.

"Girls are employed from about 8 years of age at general house work, attending cattle and pigs, and in hay and corn harvest.

"Nearly all our women are employed in hay and corn harvest.

"They have no long distance to go to their work.

"There is one day school for boys and another for girls, but they do not take advantage of them, chiefly on account of early and hard labour, to which must be added the apathy of the parents, who are ignorant themselves and care not how ignorant their children are.

"Our cottages are very fair, sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded. Water is abundant, but ventilation very much neglected.

"Every cottage has a sufficient garden."

LLANFIHANGLE.

Population, 882 - Acreage, 6,552.

68. *Mr. J. Brockie*, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, says :—

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"No boys are employed on our farm, but in the parish generally at the age of 10 years.

"Girls are employed on farms to assist in dairy work, &c. at the age of 12.

"Married women are employed in all light farm work, such as haymaking and turnip hoeing.

"Some labourers in the parish go as far as two or three miles to their work.

"I should say that boys ought not to be employed before 11 or 12 years of age.

"As this is chiefly a grazing county, the young females are employed in house and dairy work. I do not think it desirable to place any restriction on their labour.

"The means of education is the National School, the attendance is good, while there are a few, who, through carelessness, do not send their children.

"The condition of cottages in this parish is pretty good; all or nearly all on the demesne of Golden Grove are newly built and are conveniently situated, not overcrowded, and well supplied with water; the *old* cottages are not well ventilated.

"All the cottages have good gardens.

"The average earnings of labourers in this parish are about 30*l.* per year. Welshmen are not able to earn as much as Scotchmen. The Welsh are not so well fed and not so strong to labour; the climate also is more humid and relaxing, so that even Scotchmen cannot perform the same amount of labour here as they are equal to in the north."

Llandovery Union.

Cilycwn.

Population, 1,380 - Acreage, 17,300.

69. *Mr. W. D. H. Campbell Davys*, landowner, J.P., and Chairman of Board of Guardians, says, "*The cultivation* is mixed, consisting of a large proportion of mountain land.

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 12, and then only during the hay and corn harvests and oak barking in the spring of the year.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age and in the same manner as boys.

"Women are employed to the same extent, and the same way as boys and girls."

Distance.

"Labourers have a mile or two or less to go to their work."

Hours of Work.

"Women and girls work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an interval for meal."

As to Restrictions on the Age of Employment.
Boys.

"I think it is by no means desirable to interfere, as both the children and their parents are *quite alive* to the importance of attending school."

Girls.

"I should say not, at all events in South Wales."

Schools.

"There is a newly built and well attended Church of England School and Sunday school in connexion with it."

Cottages.

"The cottages are of a very mixed condition, where new cottages have been erected they are well enough, but the old style of cottages are very poor, the principal difficulty being to get stone for building purposes in the neighbourhood. They are generally well supplied with water and not often overcrowded."

Gardens and Potato Ground.

"All the cottagers have gardens attached to their cottages, and the surrounding farmers always give their cottagers and labourers potato ground in addition, the quantity depending upon their requirement."

Llandingat.

Population, 3,948 - Acreage, 31,564.

70. *The Rev. J. Hughes*, says:—

"*Children* of 13 years of age and thereabouts are employed in sowing seasons and in hay and corn harvests, also in the barking season."

"*Women* are employed in the hay and corn harvests, and in the barking season.

"The *distance* to which labourers have to go to their work is short, as a rule they assist on the farm to which they belong; or if children of labourers on the adjoining farm.

"As to the employment of *boys* I hardly think any restriction as to age is necessary. I imagine that an arrangement might be made whereby allowances might be made for their absence from school at the seasons above mentioned. If restriction be placed, 13 should be the limit.

"The employment of *girls* is almost confined to corn and hay harvests. I should not think any restriction necessary."

Schools.

"There are four schools in the parish. They take fair advantage of them."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is not good; they are hardly sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required; they are not convenient with respect to the farms; the cottages contain two rooms. I think it is much to be deplored that many cottages on farms have been pulled down and the occupiers forced to live in town, though these had only two rooms, still in my opinion they were much healthier than dwellings in town, and had gardens attached. Cottages in town are not well supplied with water, nor well ventilated.

"There are no allotments of land. Cottages in town have no gardens as a rule; in the country they have gardens."

70*a*. *Mr. David Jones*, J.P., landowner, says:—

"*Boys* are very seldom employed, but when they are, their ages are about 12 years.

"*Girls* are employed only in the farmhouses, not on the farms.

"*Women* are employed chiefly in harvesting.

"*Hours of work for men*, from 6.m. to 6 p.m., and for women, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m."

Schools.

"There are two schools (day), a Church of England and a British; they are well attended. There are also Sunday schools, at which the farm servants attend regularly."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is bad; there are a sufficient number of them, as few farm labourers are employed. The cottages are not overcrowded, and have plenty of water.

"Most of the cottages have gardens."

Rate of Wages.

"If regularly employed about 9*s.* per week; if occasionally, from 12*s.* to 15*s.*"

70*b*. (A catch workman cutting a hedge in the roadside told me he had 15*s.* a week, and was working by the day.

Two road men told me they had 12*s.* a week.—G.C.)

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APPENDIX C.—LABOUR AND SCHOOL RETURNS, WITH NOTES ON SCHOOLS.

TABLE A.—LABOUR RETURNS from 20 Farms situated in the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN, showing the Number, Age, and Sex of Persons employed on these Farms during the Spring Quarter.

County.	Union.	Parish.	Extent of Farm in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
			Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
Carmarthen	Llandovery	Cilycwm	75	75	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
„	Llandilofawr	Llandebie	450	210	660	Variable	—	—	—	—	2	13	15	—	—	—	4	—	6	10
„	„	Llanfihangel	150	76	226	Clay and loam	5 course	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
„	Carmarthen	Llangain	120	180	300	Mixed	—	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	1	7	5	13
„	„	Llangendeirne	220	130	350	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
„	„	Llangunnor	60	190	250	Heavy land	5 course	—	1	1	1	6	9	Occasionally.			3	5	—	8
„	„	„	30	120	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
„	Narberth	Eglwyscummin	269	48	317	Red earth	3 course	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
„	„	Llandissilio	29	74	103	Lime, rab, and clay.	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
„	„	„	79	218	297	Clay and sand	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Pembroke	„	Lampeter Velfrey	96	154	250	Loam and clay	4 course	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
„	„	„ „	80	90	170	Poor shallow loam.	„	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
„	„	Llandewy Velfrey	41	196	237	On limestone and clay.	—	—	—	1	—	8	9	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
„	„	Ludchurch	100	100	200	Light	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
„	„	Minwere	25	255	280	On Red sandstone.	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	Only at Dairy work.						
„	Pembroke	Stackpole	177	448	625	Sandy loam	4 course	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
„	Haverford-west.	Llanhowell	208	63	271	Gravel, sand, and clay.	„	—	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
„	Cardigan	St. Dogmell's	223	110	333	Sound dry soil	„	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	—	4	4	8
	Total		2,432	2,737	5,169	—	—	—	1	3	14	107	125	—	—	—	12	39	37	88
The following returns are imperfect :—																				
Carmarthen	Carmarthen	Llangunnor	—		—	Loam, clay, and gravel.	5 course	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	2	2	4	4	12
Pembroke	Narberth	Llandissilio	300		300			—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	6	—	6

TABLE B.—LABOUR RETURN, showing how the Employment varies during the Four Quarters of the Year on 18 Farms in the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

—	—	Acreage of Farms.			Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
18 Farms	Spring	2,432	2,737	5,169	—	1	3	14	107	125	—	—	—	12	39	37	88
	Summer				—	1	3	16	109	129	—	—	—	16	45	46	107
	Autumn				—	1	3	17	107	128	—	—	—	14	42	44	100
	Winter				—	—	3	14	114	131	—	—	—	12	33	36	81

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TABLE C.—RETURN of the DAY SCHOOLS in NARBERTH UNION, Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

Name of Parish.	Description of School.	Population, Census 1861.	Acreage.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.
1. Amroth	National	889	2,878	9	4	12	5	6	3	8	4	8	6	9	8	5	4	6	5
" "	Dissenting	"	"	14	10	17	9	10	8	13	7	15	12	20	11	12	10	15	9
2. Begelly	Parochial	1,311	3,878	15	10	20	10	10	8	15	6	15	10	20	10	10	8	15	6
3. Bletherstone	British	255	2,366	26	40	18	24	15	27	7	16	24	34	18	20	14	27	6	15
4. Clarbestone	- -	191	1,588	No School.															
5. Coedcanlas	- -	155	1,150	No School.															
6. Crinow	- -	70	352	No School.															
7. Crunwear	Parochial	261	1,690	Small Preparatory School. No Return made.															
8. Cilmaenllwyd	British	640	4,381	22	15	18	10	18	12	15	8	22	15	18	10	20	14	15	9
" "	"	"	"	20	16	21	14	13	10	9	8	20	16	21	14	13	10	9	8
9. Cyffic	- -	468	4,556	No School.															
10. Eglwyscummin	- -	260	3,740	10	2	10	5	3	2	4	2	8	3	7	6	3	2	4	3
11. Egremont	- -	124	1,006	No School.															
12. Henllan - Amgoed.	British	445	2,089	26	40	16	19	16	30	13	17	26	40	16	19	16	30	13	17
13. Jeffreston	- -	634	2,343	29	20	27	9	20	11	18	6	37	29	35	19	21	19	20	12
14. Lampeter Velfrey.	National	951	5,667	31	14	28	15	22	9	17	8	20	12	20	10	11	5	12	4
" " "	British	"	"	14	4	12	5	8	3	6	2	10	5	11	5	8	3	6	3
15. Lawhaden	- -	647	4,490	26	28	28	25	15	10	14	7	26	28	28	25	18	11	16	9
16. Llanboidy	National	1,744	10,666	43	35	38	32	34	13	31	13	37	33	31	31	34	20	31	18
" "	British	"	"	21	18	25	16	17	15	20	13	21	18	25	16	14	13	17	11
17. Llandewy Velfrey.	National	790	4,022	24	12	14	9	17	9	12	7	26	13	13	11	18	10	11	9
" " "	British	"	"	12	9	10	6	10	7	8	5	14	18	13	9	12	14	9	8
18. Llandilo	- -	126	1,132	No School.															
19. Llandissilio	Parochial	1,036	6,467	12	7	16	9	8	7	12	5	15	10	17	12	10	8	14	10
" "	Baptist	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Llanfalteg	National	353	1,866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Llangan	"	641	4,952	8	2	10	4	6	2	8	3	Not been open in Winter yet.							
22. Llanglydwen	- -	286	1,834	No School.															
23. Llangolman	- -	282	2,912	No School.															
24. Llanycefn	- -	416	2,684	No School.															
25. Llys-y-frane	British	168	1,466	19	9	16	8	15	7	13	5	15	9	14	6	12	6	10	4
26. Loveston	- -	122	1,233	No School.															
27. Ludchurch	Parochial	264	1,607	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	6
28. Maenclochog	National	396	2,754	21	16	24	12	15	7	16	7	20	21	15	20	15	15	10	14
29. Marros	Endowed	130	2,574	24	23	10	12	7	16	5	3	15	20	12	10	9	8	5	3
30. Martletwy	National	703	3,551	23	24	18	12	12	13	10	6	30	20	19	14	16	10	9	8
31. Minwere	- -	99	1,957	No School.															
32. Monachlogddu	- -	471	6,166	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Mounton	- -	40	330	No School.															
34. Narberth, North	National	1,717	6,084	54	27	49	26	26	18	24	17	47	27	30	31	27	20	19	18
" " "	British	"	"	56	23	40	22	40	15	30	16	56	23	40	22	42	17	32	18
35. Narberth, South	"	829	3,476	37	23	34	14	24	19	24	10	36	28	30	18	18	26	22	23
36. Newmoat	- -	311	3,101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37. Newton	- -	56	721	No School.															
38. Pendine	- -	204	900	No School.															
39. Reynoldston	- -	106	525	No School.															
40. Robeston Wathen.	Parochial	362	1,345	26	4	11	—	21	4	7	1	28	7	12	3	23	5	9	3
41. Slebech	National	280	4,586	25	18	22	16	18	15	17	14	25	18	22	16	18	15	17	14
42. St. Issells	"	2,022	3,830	61	6	65	20	40	3	60	10	61	6	65	20	30	5	35	20
" "	Dissenting	"	"	Built but not opened.															
43. Yerbeston	- -	118	1,224	No School.															
		21,373	126,139	713	464	634	373	470	307	440	230	684	488	588	403	455	341	393	287

NOTES on SCHOOLS in NARBERTH UNION. (The number refers to the order in which they stand in Table C.).

1. AMROTH PARISH.

Population, 889 - Acreage, 2,878.

71. There are two schools, a national, and private dissenting school.

The *national school* was built in 1860 and is capable of holding comfortably about twice as many children as were in attendance when I visited it. The master, who is not certificated, is of 27 years standing as a teacher.

The income of the school, according to a return made to the archdeacon of St. Davids, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Endowment - -	15	0	0
Subscriptions - -	8	4	6
School pence - -	5	8	9
	£28	13	3

Out of this sum the master receives 21*l.* a year, and has a cottage and small garden rent free.

According to the same return the number of children on the books is 84, and average attendance 56.

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

C.

O.

72. There is also in Amroth parish (at Stepaside) a private dissenting school (with about 50 children on the books, several of whom come from St. Issell's parish).

The average amount which the master, a very popular teacher (uncertificated) receives from school pence, which is all the payment he receives, is 4*s.* 6*d.* a week, or 11*l.* 14*s.* per annum.

The master, *Mr. Evans*, says:—"I have seven "children at 3*d.* a week, the rest pay from 1*d.* to 2*d.* "and two come free. They clean the school and do "other necessary little things."

(There were 38 children in school when I visited it.—G.C.)

2. Begelly Parish.

Population, 1,311 - Acreage, 3,878.

73. There is a parochial school in Begelly parish, how supported I do not know, as the rector of the parish who has charge of the school refused to give me any information.

According to the master's account there are about 60 children on the books, and an average attendance of about 40 (there were about 30 children on the day of my visit).

The school is a miserable building, altogether unfit for a parish school. The master who has not a certificate, told me that he received a salary of 12*l.* and what else he could make, which did not make his income up to 30*l.*

3. Bletherston Parish.

Population, 255 - Acreage, 2,366.

74. There is a good British school at Penfordd in this parish, which is attended by children from the neighbouring parishes of Llanycefn, New Moat, and Clarbeston.

The master says there are about 30 children who might attend this school who do not.

7. Crunwere.

Population, 261 - Acreage, 1,690.

75. There is a small preparatory school in this parish held in the tollgate house. The elder children attend the Amroth and Tavernspite schools (see Amroth and Lampeter Velfrey).

12. Henllan-Amgoed Parish.

Population, 445 - Acreage, 2,089.

76. There is a British school, with about 100 children on the books, in this parish, supported by children's pence and Government grant.

13. Jeffreston Parish.

Population, 634 - Acreage, 2,343.

77. There is a good school in this parish, at which children from Loveston and Yerbeston parishes (which have no schools) attend. The school receives no Government grant, and is supported by Mr. Allen, of Creselly. There are from 80 to 90 children on the books.

19. Llandissilio Parish.

Population, 1,036 - Acreage, 6,467.

78. There is a small parochial school in this parish mainly supported by Madame Bevan's charity.

The Rev. D. Jones, says:—"The income of the "school is 38*l.* per annum, and the expenditure "38*l.* 6*s.*

"Of this 35*l.* is paid by the secretary of Madame "Bevan's charity in quarterly payments to the "master, and I pay 3*l.* a year for the master's house, "and a few shillings for repairs and books."

This school is held in a wretched building, and has about 45 children on the books. The master is not certificated.

79. There is also in Llandissilio an *Independent school* taught by *Mr. Stephen Williams*. At the time I visited this school there were about 30 children at work, and at one end of the schoolroom young men of from 18 to 25 years of age.

Mr. Williams is a very popular master, and generally has some young men in his school whose education has been neglected in their earlier days, or who come to learn land surveying. These young men pay Mr. Williams, who is not a certificated teacher 6*d.* a week.

The average income of the school is 26*l.*, of which 20*l.* comes from children's pence and 6*l.* from subscriptions.

The school was built by subscription (Mr. Gower, a landowner in the parish, being the chief subscriber). The master's house was built by the farmers, whose children Mr. Williams educates, Mr. Gower giving the stone.

15. Llawhaden Parish.

Population, 647.

80. Here is a National School with uncertificated teacher. About 80 children on the books.

According to the Archdeacon's return the income of the school is from—

Subscriptions - -	20*l.*	32*l.*
School pence - -	12*l.*	
Master's salary - -	32*l.*	

14. Lampeter Velfrey.

Population, 951 - Acreage, 5,667.

81. There are in this parish two National and one British schools, and no parish in Narbeth Union provides better for the education of the children of the labouring class, thanks mainly to the Rev. R. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis, says, "We have six boys and three "girls over 13 years of age, which are not given in "my return. There are very few children in the "parish over 6 years of age who are neither at school "nor at work; the great evil is irregularity of atten- "dance. The part of the year when attendance is "best is from November 1st to July 1st."

16. Llanboidy.

Population, 1,744 - Acreage, 10,666.

82. There are two good schools in this parish, the National at Llanboidy and the British near Whitland in a corner of the parish, providing education for several children in Llangan and Cyffic parishes.

The following is a copy of the School Inspectors' Report, dated May 8th 1869 on *Llanboidy National School*.

"The order in this school is excellent, the efficiency very superior. As regards management and instruction this is quite a model school."

The building is excellent and all the arrangements in keeping, and it may be said that a large proportion of the children in Llanboidy parish are now being educated at the expense of Mr. Powell of Maesgwynne, upon whom falls nearly the whole of the expenses of the National School, which are not met by the Government grant and school pence, and those expenses are very considerable. A school rate levied on the landowners would greatly relieve the one, who is the mainstay of education in this parish. On the books of this school, by a return given to me, there appear to be about 35 children over 13 years of age.

The number on the register is about 190.

At the *British School*, which is in a corner of the parish and is attended by children from two or three

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neighbouring parishes, there are about 80 children on the books.

The following is the master's statement.

"The income of the school is derived as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
School pence (1*d.* per week) about	16	0	0
Subscriptions	28	0	0
Government grant	40	0	0
	£84	0	0

The subscriptions came from members of the committee and others in the neighbourhood who take an interest in the school.

"Two of the committee are freehold farmers; they give 1*l.* each per annum. The large landed proprietors give nothing."

21. Llangan Parish.

Population, 641 - Acreage, 4,952.

83. The *Rev. R. Jones*, says:—

"One school is newly re-opened, having been discontinued for some time, with the change of curates.

"There are also two very superior schools in the adjoining parishes, in both of which are certificated masters. We find it difficult to get a certificated master, and it is severe, and unjust even, that old good schoolmasters do not get Government grants, for many of them are superior in qualification and have had great experience in teaching."

27. Ludchurch Parish.

Population, 264 - Acreage, 1,607.

84. There is a very small school in this parish, about 20 children on the books. According to the archdeacon's return, the income is from—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	6	11	0
School pence	3	0	0
	£9	11	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Master's salary	9	0	0
Sundries	2	0	0
	£11	0	0

The rector making up the difference.

28. Maenclochog Parish.

Population, 396 - Acreage, 2,754.

85. Income of National school—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	26	0	0
School pence	20	0	0
Total	46	0	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	50	0	0
Sundries	2	11	0
	£52	11	0

The master has no certificate.

30. Martletwy Parish.

Population, 703 - Acreage, 3,551.

86. There is a National School, with about 100 children on the books.

Income.

	£	s.	d.
School pence	11	4	0
Other sources (no Government grant)	21	7	0
	£32	11	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	31	4	0
Sundries	5	15	7
	£36	19	7

This is according to Archdeacon Clark's return.

Children from Minwere (where there is no school) also attend this school.

35. Narberth North Parish.

87. There is a National and British School in this parish.

The income of the *National School* is (as nearly as I could ascertain):—

	£	s.	d.
Endowment	30	0	0
School pence	9	0	0
Government grant	17	0	0
Other sources	7	0	0
	£63	0	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	70	0	0
Sundries	5	0	0
	£75	0	0

The balance made up by the rector.

The *British School* is supported by Government grant and school pence, and has about 100 children on the books. The master of British school says:—

"But a very small proportion of the children attending this school belong to the *agricultural labouring class*. Out of 92 present this afternoon, the number belonging to that class is from 12 to 20, and, as far as I can judge, there are about an equal number of small farmers.

"Our children come chiefly from the town."

Slebech Parish.

Population, 280 - Acreage, 4,586.

88. There is a *National School* in this parish almost entirely supported by *Mr. Philipps of Picton Castle*, the school being situated near Picton Castle in a corner of the parish.

St. Issels Parish.

Population, 2,022 - Acreage, 3,830.

89. There is a National School near the church at St. Issells, and a British School has just been built at Saundersfoot.

On the register of the *National School* there are about 150 children, and the income and expenditure were as follows for 1868:—

Income.

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions	10	6	0
From Jones's Charity	15	0	0
From school pence	16	8	0
Total	41	14	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Master's salary	26	0	0
Mistress's salary	12	0	0
Repairs and sundries	1	10	0
Total	39	10	0

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Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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TABLE D.—DAY SCHOOL RETURNS for CAREW and TALIARIS Parishes.

Name of Union.	Name of Parish.	Population, Census 1861.	Acreage.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.
Pembroke - -	*Carew -	993	5,636	31	11	15	13	20	10	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Llandilofawr -	Taliaris -	In Llandilo.		8	4	9	3	4	2	7	2	8	4	9	3	6	4	5	3

* In Carew Parish the Rev. John Phelps says, There are about 50 children old enough to be at school who are neither at school nor at work.

MADAME BEVAN'S CHARITY.

90. Copy of letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner by Mr. T. Morgan, secretary to the trustees.

Madame Bevan's Charity.

"Dear Sir, Cardigan, August 14, 1869.

THE income of the Charity is about a thousand a year, and it is applied by the trustees in payment of masters and the assistance of schools. The Charity is confined entirely to church schools, and the limits are the whole of North and South Wales. The trustees issue no report, and their accounts are passed in the Court of Chancery annually."

Mr. Henry Tremenheere.

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EVIDENCE accompanying MR. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE'S REPORT on CARDIGANSHIRE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE, and MERIONETHSHIRE.

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1. *Mr. John Davis*, solicitor and land agent, Aberystwith.—I farm an estate of 120 acres in the neighbourhood of Aberystwith. The custom of this county, in which small farms prevail, is to do the work of the farm by farm servants hired by the year, and boarded and lodged in the farm houses. I pay my head man 16*l.* a year. Women servants are also hired into the farm houses by the year, and they are expected to do any out-door work that may be required of them. They work not only in harvest time but in spring and summer, planting potatoes, thinning turnips, and in autumn pulling turnips. This is a poor county, and wages, unless in exceptional districts, are low. A day labourer receives 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, but although it is not a part of the agreement he generally gets one meal a day in the farm house, and sometimes two. The cottages are indifferent; much improvement is wanting in this respect. Most of the labouring class keep a pig, and make a good profit by it; they are allowed to plant a bushel of potatoes on the farmers' land, for the use of which they pay nothing if they provide the manure, except two days' labour at harvest. The labouring classes are tolerably well off, although wages are comparatively low, but the education of their children

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is very much neglected. The children of small farmers and of agricultural labourers generally do not get more than three months schooling in the year, *i.e.* during the winter months. We are under great disadvantages with respect to education. The poverty of the county generally tells against the support of schools, and how can a poor labouring man on low wages with a large family afford to pay the school fees? Government aid is much wanted in this part of Wales, but it must be given on different principles from those now acted on. The poorer districts are most in need of assistance, but they get none.

The average rent of land in Cardiganshire does not exceed 10*s.* 6*d.* or 12*s.* 6*d.* an acre. Some arable land in good situations lets for 20*s.* an acre, but except near towns, where an accommodation rent is paid, this is the maximum.

2. *Mr. Frederick Roberts*, solicitor and land agent.—I farm 400 acres in the neighbourhood of Aberystwith. I employ no women or gangs of young persons or children. A few are occasionally employed in turnip thinning or such light work, but not otherwise. Further south a great many women are employed in agriculture. I pay my first class agricultural labourers 12*s.* a week, and 11*s.* to ordinary labourers, wet or dry. They rent cottages, for which they pay 2*l.* a year. The cottages are very indifferent. It is one great want of Wales. The difficulty is the number of small independent holdings.

The schools in the rural districts suffer from poverty, and some of the parishes are so large that it is almost impossible for children to attend school. The employment of children does not interfere with their education; the other causes do.

3. *Rev. E. D. Phillips*, vicar of Aberystwith.—I am well acquainted with the social state of Cardiganshire, having lived in many parts of it. I have never seen any approach to the agricultural gang system. Women work in the fields and children are employed for a few weeks in stone picking, bird keeping, thinning turnips, and setting potatoes; but I do not think that these occupations interfere materially with their schooling, where schools exist that are available for them.

Children seldom remain longer at school than 13. Many are hired into the farmhouses as farm servants at that age or younger. At 14 or 15 they receive 5*l.* or 6*l.* a year, with their board. Most of the farmers keep farm servants, boarding them in their houses. The wages of a head man do not exceed as a rule 12*l.* a year, and those of other servants 8*l.* or 10*l.* The living in the farmhouses is poor; fresh meat is rarely or never used. There are three meals a day, for breakfast, coffee and bread, for dinner, bacon or salt meat and potatoes, and bread with butter or cheese and butter milk for supper.

Day agricultural labourers receive upon an average 9*s.* a week, out of which they have to pay 2*l.* a year rent for a cottage, generally consisting of only two rooms. On some farms a peculiar arrangement exists. A farmer provides a labourer with a cottage rent free and pasture for a cow, and for these advantages he is bound to come at the call of his landlord and work for him for 6*d.* a day. No matter if he should be earning at the time 2*s.* elsewhere, he is bound, on pain of forfeiting his cottage and pasture, to work at 6*d.* a day for his landlord.

The condition of cottages requires to be taken into serious consideration. Very few have more than two rooms. The moral condition of the population cannot be satisfactory under such circumstances.

4. *G. W. Parry, Esq.*, chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the county of Cardigan.—In some parts of this county women are much employed in agricultural labour, and they are a robust hardy race. I do not think that such employment has anything to do with their morals. The kind of employment varies in different localities. In some the work is rather heavy, such as pitching dung into carts or loading waggons at harvest. All women hired into the farm houses are hired as labourers in husbandry, and do outdoor work as regularly as men. Children are not much employed, except at certain seasons, such as those for setting potatoes and barking; but in neither case ought the labour to interfere materially with school attendance, except for a short time. Schools, where they exist, are taken advantage of; there is a great disposition in the people to give their children the advantages of education and to get them on in the world.

The wages of an agricultural labourer may be considered low, but considering the quality of the work, I am of opinion that they are as high as the labourer deserves. The Welsh agricultural labourer is not remarkable for his industry; 1*s.* 6*d.* a day is, I consider, a fair equivalent for what he gives. Fresh meat is never tasted by day labourers; oatmeal porridge, potatoes, bread and cheese, and sometimes a little butter or bacon constituting their common diet.

Farm servants live rather better than agricultural labourers, but they rarely taste fresh meat. Farmers prefer, where cottages are available, paying their labourers in money and leaving them to provide for themselves.

The cottages are, generally speaking, very bad, with mud walls and thatched roofs; they are rarely ventilated, but generally have a sufficient supply of water. There is a tendency to the aggregation of farms, which will gradually have the effect of improving the labourers' dwellings in this part of Wales. Very few of the cottages in Cardiganshire have gardens, and those are generally neglected. There is no taste for gardening among the peasantry, nor is the allotment system known.

5. *Rev. John Pugh*, vicar of Llanbadanfawr.—There is not much demand for the labour of children or young persons in agriculture in this part of Cardiganshire, and when children do not attend schools it is either from the total absence of schools, as is too frequently the case in the remote districts, or the worthlessness of such schools as exist. Parents are very quick in appreciating a good school, and will make sacrifices to give their children the advantage of it; but they will not send them, perhaps miles from home, to a bad one.

The great difficulty we have to contend with is in starting schools. A great many parishes are really too poor to find the requisite amount to entitle them to Government assistance, and until the Government takes the initiative I do not see how the educational wants of this part of Wales can possibly be met. I have three schools in my parish, which is a large one, and they are well supported with masters; but go a few miles into the interior, and the dearth is great indeed.

There is every disposition on the part of the clergy to co-operate with dissenters in establishing schools, and a spirit of mutual toleration is, I am glad to say, becoming prevalent; but the difficulty is the poverty of the country.

6. *Mr. G. H. Thomas*, master of the National School, Penyparke.—My school is a mixed school. I have 350 on the books, of which about one-third are girls. It is a church school in connection with the National Society, but conducted on liberal principles, *i.e.*, we teach the church catechism only to those children whose parents do not object to it. When I first undertook the management of the school in 1845 I did not know a word of Welsh, and there was only one child who could speak a word of English. I had to teach myself Welsh. The school is partly supported by the children from the agricultural districts, but many come from the town of Aberystwith. About 36 children of agricultural labourers leave in April and do not return until November, consequently they are six months absent, and supposing they attend regularly the other six months (which is far from being the case), it takes two months to recover what they have lost, so that practically they do not get more than four months' progressive instruction during the year, and assuming five years to be the average duration of school attendance, these children do not get more than 20 months' effective schooling during their lives. Welsh children show considerable quickness in

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learning, particularly in arithmetic. They have a great desire to better their position, and their parents, particularly those residing in the agricultural districts, are very desirous of giving them the advantages of education. Some of my scholars, the sons of small farmers, come from a distance of eight or nine miles, and lodge in the village for the sake of the advantages of the school. If very poor, the earnings of children at an early age are of such importance to the parents that they cannot dispense with them; they could not otherwise give them bread. Some of the boys of my school go to sea for the summer months in the coasters as cabin boys, &c., and come back in the winter; they are the quickest and most intelligent lads. Several who were educated at this school have become settlers in New Zealand, Victoria, and Queensland, and are doing well. When the parents are very poor we do not enforce the payment of school pence, but give the children a gratuitous education. In a large school this can be done without being much felt by the master.

7. *David Jenkins.*—I am an agricultural labourer, and can speak a little English. My wages are 1*s.* 6*d.* a day all the year round. I am the owner of a cottage, but it is mortgaged. It may perhaps be worth about 2*l.* 10*s.* per year. I have six children; the three eldest are grown up. None of them can read or write. There is no school in the parish where I live, and if there was I could not afford to send my children to it. I never get meat, except now and then a bit of bacon. I live upon potatoes, bread and cheese, and a little butter. The labour of children becomes valuable after 10; a boy of that age can earn 1*l.* 10*s.* a year, besides getting his meals at the farm house. Children are useful in tending cattle, weeding, &c. Education is a good thing, but bread for a poor man is better.

8. *Mr. J. Jones,* Tanycastell.—I farm an estate of 300 acres, chiefly arable land. Children of 10 years of age are found useful on a farm, and they are often employed for eight months together. They are boarded in the farm houses for that period, getting 6*d.* a day and their food, and return home for four months in the year, during which they can go to school if there is one. There is no school in this parish, and the nearest is 2½ miles distant. There is a great disposition on the part of parents to educate their children when possible. The wages of farm servants range from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a year. The diet in the farm houses is oatmeal porridge or bread and cheese for breakfast, salt meat or broth with potatoes for dinner, and flummery (boiled oatmeal) with milk for supper.

Women working as agricultural labourers earn 8*d.* a day, and in harvest time 1*s.* 6*d.* with their food. They do everything that men are accustomed to do but plough. Harrowing by women is quite common further south. Labourers' cottages in this part of Wales are in a very bad state, seldom having more than one room, which is divided for sleeping purposes, and five or six beds are packed within the compass of a few square yards. Many cottages were pulled down in the last century to prevent chargeability to the parish, and others have not yet been built. A few cottages have gardens, but very small ones. Labourers are generally allowed to plant five or six bushels of potatoes on the land of their employers. If they find the manure, the use of the land is gratuitous; if the employer finds the manure, the labourer is required to give three days labour in reaping time for each bushel of potatoes planted.

9. *Mr. Daniel Thomas,* Frendeg.—I farm an estate of 106 acres, chiefly arable land. I have three lads and three girls as farm servants. The females have from 5*l.* to 9*l.* a year, according to age. The male farm servants receive from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year, which is the maximum wages in this county. Women are much employed in field work as day labourers, but chiefly by gentlemen farmers, who think that kind of labour the most economical. I am not of that opinion, and I am opposed to the employment of females in husbandry both on economical and on moral grounds. I believe such employment to be a mistake. I think it would be very desirable to place a restriction on the employment of young females in out-door work.

The highest wages given to agricultural labourers, finding themselves, in this part of Wales, is 2*s.* a day, and considering the quality of the labour it is high enough. The labourers do not do their work conscientiously; their principal object seems to be to do as little as possible for their wages, and they require constant supervision. At the same time it is often the fault of the masters, who do not make a sufficient distinction between themselves and their men. The people appreciate education, although many are too poor to give their children its advantages, but most parents would be very glad to keep their children at school if they could afford to maintain them; but they are frequently obliged by poverty to take them away from school as soon as they can get them hired. Children, if they cannot be kept at school, are better with farmers than at home; they are better fed, and it is better that they should be employed than idling at home.

10. *Mr. L. Williams,* Rhoscellan.—I rent and farm an estate of 500 acres, chiefly arable land. I employ neither boys nor girls on the farm, and women only occasionally. About 15 women come from the southern part of the county to help in the harvest; they bring their own sickles with them, and board and lodge in the house. I pay them 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, with their food.

I have 14 farm servants, whom I board and lodge; their wages range from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year, according to their age and qualifications. All can read and write, and most of them attend a Sunday school.

Day agricultural labourers who are worth anything, can earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, or certainly not less than 12*s.* a week. Men are to be got for less, such as discharged miners who know nothing of farm work.

The cottages in my parish are, generally speaking, bad, seldom having more than two rooms, and there are many withonly one.

11. *Mr. Richard James,* Brynllys.—I farm an estate of 600 acres of mixed arable and pasture land. The only women I employ in field labour are my three female farm servants, who do much of the work of the farm; they harrow and load manure carts. Their wages are 7*l.* a year, with their board and lodging. I hire no boys under 16 or 17 years of age, but I occasionally employ younger ones as plough boys. I have four male farm servants living in the house; their wages are from 9*l.* 10*s.* to 20*l.*, with food. I employ besides four day labourers, to whom I pay 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, with their board. They live in cottages, for which they pay rent, and they have the privilege of planting potatoes on my land. For each bushel of potatoes, I finding the manure, they are required to give three days labour at harvest time. Some plant four or five bushels, and get enough potatoes to supply them for the year.

Farm servants can save money if they please. One of mine, whose wages are only 9*l.* 10*s.* a year, has now 150*l.* in a savings bank. The attendance at the schools in this parish (Henllys) is very good. I do not think there is a child old enough for school who does not attend either the church or the British school. If some boys leave school rather too young, it is either for employment in the mines or to go to sea, which some do as young as 9 or 10. The cottages in this parish are very bad, many have only one room, and the gardens are very small.

12. *James Loxdale, Esq.,* Llanilar, magistrate.—I have taken much interest in the improvement of cottages for the agricultural population of this part of Wales, and I have built and am building a considerable number in the place of the wretched hovels, which are the reproach of this county. All those I build have three bedrooms and a kitchen, pantry, &c., below. Such cottages can be built for about 100*l.* or 120*l.*, and a labourer is willing to pay 5*l.* a year rent for a good cottage. The desire for improved cottage accommodation is becoming general among the labouring classes. Attention to decency is also becoming more common among the people of this part of Wales, but the great impediment to progress is the language, and the advance of English in our remote districts is slow.

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Education is appreciated, and where schools are available there is every disposition on the part of parents, whose poverty is not a bar, to send their children to them. Boys who have made tolerable progress in English generally leave the principality and procure employment in England.

Children are very little employed in farm labour until they enter farm service, except on grazing farms, where they are employed from the earliest age for six months in the year looking after cattle, &c., to the great neglect of their education.

The number of small freeholds is very considerable for Cardiganshire, owing to the frequent sale of crown lands. These small properties are farmed in the most wretched manner, the owners possessing scarcely any capital. The accommodation in the small farm-houses is insufficient, the male and female servants generally sleeping in the same room.

13. *Mr. James Lewis*, Llanrhystedd.—I am a small farmer and publican, and am well acquainted with the state of the population in this part of South Wales. Women are much employed in agriculture, and are generally paid 8*d.* a day with their food. The wages of day agricultural labourers are from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, or 1*s.* 6*d.* perhaps if they are good workmen. Boys are much employed in tending cattle from May to December, and if hired are paid from 7*d.* to 8*d.* a day. Wages are so low that it is impossible for many parents to send their children to school. They cannot afford to pay the fees, however low, and a great many children hereabouts never get any education unless it is paid for by others than their parents.

14. *Mr. John Richards*, master of the Llanrhystedd school.—This school is supported entirely by subscription and the children's pence. I am an uncertificated master. I have 100 on the books, but the attendance of the children for six months in the year is reduced to less than one half. In April last the average attendance was 50; in May, 43; June, 40; July, 38; (August, school closed for holidays); in September, 24. There are a great many children in this parish who get no education, the parents being too poor to pay the school fees.

15. *Mr. John Miller*, Morfumaur.—I rent and farm an estate of 400 acres belonging to the Earl of Lisburne. I consider my farm one of the largest, if not the largest, in Cardiganshire, and it consists principally of arable land. I employ about 19 young women regularly throughout the year, and I pay them 8*d.* a day ordinarily, and in harvest 1*s.* 6*d.* They provide their own food and reside with their parents in a village about a mile from my farm. They do a considerable part of the work of the farm, weeding potatoes, topping and tailing turnips, loading dung carts, pitching sheaves, attending the thrashing machine. I never trust them with horses, therefore harrowing is not done by them, as on many farms. As to morals, they are neither better nor worse than others. There is a good deal of illicit intercourse between the sexes in this part of Wales, but it is the custom of the country. There is no public opinion to check it.

I employ regularly 16 men as labourers to whom I pay 10*s.* a week all the year round, without any perquisites. I employ no boys.

I think the small farmers are generally indifferent to the advantage of education for their children; much more so than agricultural labourers, who look more to their children getting on in life; but the schools in this part of Wales are not good. They are not sufficiently looked after, and the masters are, generally speaking, incompetent.

16. *Mr. Daniel Thomas*, Aberayron, land agent.—The employment of women in agriculture in Cardiganshire is not one half what it was within my recollection, viz., a period of 25 years, and it will doubtless in the course of time altogether cease. Good agricultural labourers can get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in this district, but of course there are inferior labourers who can only obtain lower wages. The average value of land in the county is about 10*s.* an acre. The farms are generally small, and the farmers possessing very little capital, the cultivation is not, as a rule, what it ought to be. But there is an improvement of late years, and the Welsh people are ready enough to avail themselves of the experience of others whenever they can do so. in the interior rearing stock is the chief business. Dealers come into the county and buy for the English farmers. The farms in the hill districts have extensive rights of common, which enable them to raise large numbers of cattle. They are fed in winter by a short blackish hay made on the hills and carted down to the homesteads for winter use. Children are much employed in looking after cattle.

According to my experience the agricultural labourers in Cardiganshire are sufficiently educated to read their native language, and many can read English, without, however, always understanding it.

17. *Rev. H. Morgan*, Aberayron.—I quite agree in the opinion which I hear has been expressed by Mr. Daniel Thomas, that the employment of women in agriculture has greatly diminished in this county within the last 25 years.

It is not the practice to employ children much in agriculture. Nothing resembling the agricultural gang system is known or, I believe, has ever existed in Wales. The only employment of children which interferes seriously with their education is by the parents themselves, particularly the small farmers, who keep them from school for quite six months of the year. Out of the remaining six months available for education at least two must be devoted to regaining what had been lost; therefore, deducting the month's holidays at Christmas, and supposing the attendance to be regular, such children get only three months of effective education during the year. Among a certain class of the population there is no disposition to educate their children, probably from a disinclination to see them grow up better instructed than themselves. This is a class that can only be reached by a compulsory system, and the children of the very poor can be only educated on a gratuitous system. According to my experience as a diocesan inspector, I think I may state that there is not a parish in this county, unless it be a very small one, that is without some kind of school. Good masters are, however, rare. The obstacle to progress is the language. Civilization, if I may so speak, is advancing from two directions, viz., from the coast and from the English border.

18. *Mr. John Davies*, Lampeter.—I farm 100 acres, some arable, but chiefly grazing land. The wages of day agricultural labourers are from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day, with food, or from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* without food. A first class farm servant gets 16*l.* a year, with board and lodging. The employment of women in field labour is diminishing. There are great difficulties in the way of educating children in this part of Wales. Many of the parishes are very large, and how can a young child walk perhaps three or four miles in winter, in snow or rain, to school? The schools, too, are but indifferent, and a poor man cannot afford to pay more than a penny a week for a child's schooling. I am in favour of a compulsory and gratuitous system of education. I think the Government should at least afford assistance to the poor man in educating his children.

19. *Mr. David Davies.*—I farm an estate of about 180 acres between Lampeter and Aberayron. The wages of agricultural labourers are 6*d.* a day with their keep, or 9*d.* a day without it, but with the addition of a cottage and garden, the rent of which is 1*l.* a year and taxes paid. A cottager with a good garden is generally able to keep a pig. The cottages in the part of Cardiganshire where I live are all built of mud, with thatched roofs and mud floors, most of them unfit for a human being to live in.

20. *Mr. David Jenkins*, Blarencyswch, Lampeter.—I rent and farm an estate of 80 acres, chiefly arable land. I pay my day labourers 1*s.* a day with food. One of my labourers rents a two-roomed cottage and five acres of land of me, for which he pays 7*l.* a year. He keeps a cow. My two farm servants have 12*l.* a year each, with their board and lodging. I pay my day labourers from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day, with-

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out food. I keep two women servants, to one of whom, who is chiefly a domestic servant, I pay 7*l.* 10*s.* a year, and to the other, who works out, 5*l.* The children of small farmers are employed from an early age for many months in the year in tending cattle.

21. *H. C. Fryer, Esq.*, manager of the estates of Sir Pryce Pryce, Bart.—The employment of women in agriculture in this county is decidedly diminishing, but the female farm servants still do a considerable part of the out-door work of farms. In harvest time also a considerable number of women come from the southern part of the county and earn good wages with their food. In the barking season women and children are much employed; but it is not the occupation which children thus occasionally obtain that interferes with their education; that arises chiefly from the poverty of the parents. A graduated scale of payment, which should be adapted to the means of the parents, would bring many more children to school. In some cases it would be necessary that instruction should be provided gratuitously. There is every disposition, so far as my experience goes, on the part of the poorer classes to give their children the advantages of education, but the difficulties are great. In many parishes there is no school, and there is no person of sufficient influence to take the initiative in providing one.

Children certainly as a rule leave school too young, but there is a natural desire on the part of poor people to be relieved of the burthen of maintaining them. It would be a most important step in education if some adequate inducement could be held out to boys to continue their school attendance, if only for 12 hours a week, until 14.

The generality of labourers' cottages in this county are certainly very bad, except in the neighbourhood of the mines, where many good ones have been built by the miners, both for their own occupation and as an investment; but there is little improvement in the rural districts. The miserable character of these cottages is attributable to the fact that by far the greatest number have been built on lease and many by squatters on the wastes. Of the 500 cottage tenants of Sir Pryce Pryce not more than 40 pay rack rents. They are either the owners of the freehold or long leaseholders.

Cottagers are indifferent about gardens, and when they have them they neglect them. I do not know of any instance of the allotment system in this county. Small farms predominate in Cardiganshire, and the competition for them is great. Wages vary considerably in different parts of the county. Here they are about 12*s.* a week; further south 9*s.* is more common.

22. *Lt.-Col. Lewes*, county magistrate.—Boys are seldom employed here as in England. They are sometimes hired to scare crows, but are difficult to obtain for this purpose, as they are generally kept at school until they go to service in the farm houses. Some farmers take youths at 10 to save wages, and as far as my knowledge goes they are well and fairly kept. Girls are employed more than boys, and are in demand for tending children. They go out as young as 10, and when at a more advanced age, if unmarried, they enter farm service, and they are employed in field as well household work; they live as the men and at the same table with the farmer, and are usually engaged by the year. They feed pigs, tend cattle, are expert in using the spade, and in many other occupations usually assigned to men. With respect to the employment of children in outdoor work it is not the practice of this county. They go to school, and their parents do not like to take them away until they go to service. The occupation of girls in farm houses, though laborious, is healthy. Bred up in poverty from their youth, often even without sufficient food, they gladly enter service where the labour is only what they have been accustomed to, and where food, clothing, and wages are everything.

23. *Captain Philipps*, county magistrate.—Great progress has been made of late years in supplying this county with schools, but there are still many of an inferior character. The agricultural population on the whole do their best to give their children the advantages of education, but there will always be some who neglect that duty, for which I conceive the most effectual remedy would be for the State to require that no child should be permitted to work for hire until he has obtained a certificate of being at least able to read and write. This has long been my conviction, and I should be glad to find it carried into effect. Children are not much employed in this county on farms, except by their parents; gangs are entirely unknown. On my property and in the parish generally boys are employed as herd boys during the summer months from the age of 9 years. Girls are also so employed; I employ one occasionally as a herd, aged 11 years.

I pay my day labourers 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, with a cottage rent free. Women I pay 9*d.* a day. They are employed not in consequence of any deficiency in male labour, but because their wages are lower and their labour for many purposes is as efficient as that of men. The hirings of farm servants are by the year, and take place at the hiring fairs, which are held in the principal towns of the county. The farm houses are very deficient in sleeping accommodation. I know of many where the men and women sleep in the same loft without any separation, and there are many with merely a row of boxes between them. Our petty sessions are much taken up with cases of bastardy arising out of these defective arrangements.

The condition of cottages in this county is very much to be deplored. They are much overcrowded, and the morality is very low, but much more so among the farm servants than in the poor cottages. The cases of profligacy that often come before magistrates at petty sessions would scarcely be credited.

24. *David Howell, Esq.*, solicitor, clerk to the guardians of the poor, Machynlleth.—The county of Montgomery has two very marked social divisions; in one half Welsh is almost exclusively spoken, in the other English. The rivers Severn and Vyrnwy form the line of demarcation between these districts. In the one part English manners and customs prevail, in the other Welsh. There is in both these divisions a marked difference from the adjoining county of Cardigan. Women are scarcely at all employed in agricultural labour, except in hay-time and harvest. I cannot speak with confidence as to the employment of children, but I have no doubt the children of small farmers are required at a very early age to assist in the work of the farm. The farms are generally small in the Welsh portion of Montgomeryshire, but in the English division there are some considerable holdings.

With regard to cottages it must be admitted that this county, although formerly contrasting with some others in the principality, is far behind modern requirements. Speculators build on a very inferior plan, and endeavour to gain the maximum of profit with the minimum of outlay; neither ventilation nor decency are considered. It is a landowners question, and public opinion and a sense of duty will alone correct the evil. A great number of cottages in this county have been built by squatters. For many years the encroachments were disregarded, but most now have to pay a small rent. There is a great desire on the part of every agricultural labourer to possess a house of his own, but a landlord in granting a building lease ought to insist upon such a plan being adopted as will be conducive at least to decency and health.

25. *Rev. G. Griffith*, rector of Machynlleth, diocesan inspector of schools.—I think there is very little cause for complaint with regard to the attendance of children at the schools in my district. It is not the custom to employ very young children in field work, and in this county wages, owing to the mines, are generally so good, varying from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, that parents, unless in the case of a very large family, can generally pay the school fees without difficulty. In some poor mountain districts perhaps the case may be different, for the small sheep farmers are very poor, lead very hard lives, and work their children sooner than is good for them. Taking the county of Mont-

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gomery as a whole, the condition of its population is one of well being; the labouring classes have nothing to complain of, except perhaps the state of their cottages, which are very bad. I wish I could say that I was aware of any effort being made to improve them.

26. *Rev. David Parry*, rector of Darowen.—Boys go to service here from 10 to 12 years of age; they are lodged and fed at the farms where they work. If a boy can be well fed and well cared for at home, I should say that 12 was quite young enough to enter farm service, but if he cannot be so cared for, the sooner he goes toservice the better for him.

No young females are employed in farm work in this part of Wales, and women only during the harvest, when they lend a helping hand in the field. As occasional day labourers they do no greater amount of work than to enable them to pay for the land which the farmer has lent them for the planting of their potatoes, which is generally as near their homes as practicable. There is a national school in this parish open the whole of the year, and two others during the winter. They are not taken advantage of to the extent that could be desired, not owing to early labour, but because the parents cannot be led to appreciate the advantages of education.

27. *Rev. Joseph Hughes*, rector of Carno.—Boys enter farm service at from 9 to 13 years of age. I consider from 12 or 13 would be a much more suitable age. Girls are employed as young as boys to take care of children and in the general work of farmhouses.

28. *Rev. B. Harris*, rector of Llanidloes.—This is a manufacturing district, and the town boys are employed chiefly as jiggers in the surrounding lead mines; girls are also employed as woollen weavers in the factories, as hand loom weavers at home, and jiggers in the lead mines.

I think that no boy or girl ought to leave school until 13 years of age, but the parents here are too poor to dispense with their earnings. There is considerable indifference on the part of the poor as to the education of their children.

The old cottages in this place and neighbourhood are wretched hovels, but the new ones are very much better; very few have gardens, and the only accommodation they have is the privilege of planting potatoes on the neighbouring farms, within a radius of three miles from the town.

29. *Rev. F. W. Parker*, Vicar of Moughtey.—Boys are not much employed in this parish except to help their parents at busy times, or for driving sheep to pasture. They are thus employed as young or younger than 12 years of age. Girls are not at all employed except at harvest time to help their parents; the same may be said of women, who only go out to field work at harvest to assist their husbands. There is a Church of England school in this parish, well conducted by a certificated master; there is also a dissenting school held in a meeting-house. When the children become useful the parents are apt to keep them at home, or only to send them to school for the winter months. Some of the cottages in this parish are tolerably good, but they have not a sufficiency of rooms to properly separate the sexes, and they are not well ventilated.

This is a hill parish, the farms are small, the largest being let for 120*l.* a year. The greater number are quite small, the houses often no better than cottages, the farmer and his family doing most of the work, keeping no servants, either male or female, only a few day labourers being occasionally hired.

30. *Mr. John Peters*, master of Pennel British school.—This being an agricultural district the employment of children in early labour affects the school attendance considerably, there being something continually going on to require the children's help. With few exceptions, agricultural labourers remove their children from school before they are 12 years of age, as soon, in fact, as the farmers will take them. The children of the labouring classes pay 1*d.* a week for schooling, but when several come from the same family even that is too much for them to pay.

Generally, the labouring classes strive to let their children have a little schooling. Small farmers are not so careful in this, and many of them deny their children any instruction whatever.

31. *Mr. H. C. James*, master of the Aberllepunny British school.—This school, being in the centre of a mining district is not affected by children being employed in agriculture. The great drawbacks to education are, firstly, children being taken early from school, and, secondly, lack of regularity. If the legislature should pass a measure ensuring these two desiderata, this school, and dozens of others, would be ten times more efficient.

It is very important that a school should be conveniently situated; many children have to walk to this school four miles.

The children leave for the quarries at the age of 12; but more depart before 12 than remain over 12. The parents of only a very few children are too poor to pay, except where there is a very large family of eight or ten children. The attendance is smallest in December and January, stormy weather and distance keeping the children at home. I have seen only 12 in school out of 93, the average attendance. There are no agricultural labourers here, but many of the quarrymen, having received no education themselves, think their children may do as well without it, and therefore don't care about it. My firm belief is that some kind of compulsion must be used before many parents will send their children to school, and they must also be compelled to send them there regularly.

32. *Mr. Richard Gellart*, Machynlleth, land agent and manager of the estates of Earl Vane.—Women are very little employed in agriculture in this or any other part of the county of Montgomery, except at harvest time, and a few children perhaps for about three weeks in the barking season. Boys are taken into farm service at 13, and occasionally earlier, they are also employed at a very early age in herding on the hill farms. The wages of day agricultural labourers in this neighbourhood are from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week; in winter from 13*s.* to 14*s.* The price of labour in this district is affected by mines and quarries; in other parts of Montgomeryshire wages are lower, say from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week. The majority of agricultural labourers here live fully up to their wages, and as regards saving, they are little better off than if they got only 8*s.* a week; they are quite able to pay for the schooling of their children. Farms range in this part of Montgomeryshire (Machynlleth Union) from 20*l.* to 200*l.* a year, from 50*l.* to 60*l.* a year being the average.

Cottages are very indifferent, most having only two rooms, and there in a great want of cleanliness among the people. There is a great deficiency of privies, not only among the cottages, but in older class of farmhouses. Many of the old cottages have been built on long leases and are very bad, but all that have been lately built and are now building on Lord Vane's property are arranged on an approved plan, with suitable outhouses and accommodation. There is no taste for gardening among the cottagers, and their gardens are generally badly cultivated or altogether neglected. I am not aware of the allotment system being adopted in any part of Montgomeryshire. It would only be applicable in the neighbourhood of a manufacturing town. Agricultural labourers who are married can generally get permission to plant a few bushels of potatoes on the farmer's land; it often forms part of the hiring agreement.

Barley bread or oat cake was the common bread of labourers and farm servants in Montgomeryshire 20 years ago, now they will touch nothing but wheaten bread. The practice of giving salt meat as the only animal food prevails, but the effect of such a diet is probably counteracted by the quantity of farinaceous food consumed. Morals are, from my experience as a poor law guardian, improving.

33. *Mr. William Pugh*, land steward of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.—There is a great difference as regards the employment of women in agriculture between Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire. They are very little employed in the latter county. There

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are a great many small freeholders in Montgomeryshire owning estates of from 20 to 80 acres, where they cultivate by their families. The smaller proprietors make up their living by the addition of day labour, but a man with land enough to keep two cows, with the addition of a sheep-run, can get on without being himself an occasional day labourer. The farms on Sir Watkin Wynn's property range from 10*l.* to 220*l.* a year. There is no desire to diminish the number of small farms; they provide a living for a great number of respectable men who would otherwise be forced to remain day labourers all their lives. The small farmers of from 15*l.* to 20*l.* a year rent combine the employment of an occasional day labourer with their holdings. Wages of agricultural labourers range from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week, and first-class farm servants get from 15*l.* to 19*l.* a year. The cottages on Sir Watkin Wynn's property are in a satisfactory state, most of them having four rooms. Gardens are very little valued, as a labourer can generally get the use of land from a farmer to plant potatoes. In the hill districts the cottages are very bad indeed, being both small and dirty, many quite unfit for a human being.

Education is very much appreciated by the labouring class for their children. In the parish where I reside (Llanbridwyn), of which the population is 2,180, there are two schools, a National and a British. The former has 100 on the books; the latter 120. Both have very good masters.

34. *Mr. G. W. Griffith*, merchant, Machynlleth.—I have resided 18 years in this neighbourhood, and although I don't now farm I am well acquainted with the farms of this district, which range from 30*l.* to 100*l.* a year. Female farm servants do not as a rule attend cattle, but only pigs, nor are they much employed in out-door work, except at harvest. Their wages are from 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year. All farm servants live upon salt meat, but eat wheaten bread in this district.

We know nothing of agricultural gangs, public or private, in this county. Many of the old farm houses are very badly provided with sleeping accommodation, and in some cases I have known the men put to sleep in an outhouse, but that is the exception. The cottages in this neighbourhood are very bad, and as a rule are badly drained, badly ventilated, and without privies. Those in villages are the worst; in the country districts they are a trifling degree better. I do not see any progress made in the direction of improvements. 3*l.* a year is the lowest rent that I know of being paid for a two-room cottage in this part of Montgomeryshire.

35. *Mr. Morris Davis*, farmer.—I rent and farm about 100 acres of mixed arable and pasture land, with a sheep walk of 50 acres in Merionethshire. I employ two men farm servants and one woman and a girl; the wages of the men are 12*l.* 10*s.*, and of the female farm servant 8*l.* To the girl, who is 16 years old, I pay 3*l.* a year. My servants have four meals a day; bacon or salt beef for dinner, oatmeal porridge for breakfast and supper, with bread made of two-thirds barley and one-third wheat. Women are employed as day labourers in my neighbourhood only in harvest time, when they are paid 11*s.* a week with their food. Boys are only employed after they enter farm service at 12 or 13 years of age. The cottages in the place where I reside (Court) are bad, but I have seen worse in other parts. Most have two rooms with a loft in which some of the family sleep. The flooring of the cottages is of brick or flags. There is a school in my parish but many of the people are too poor to be able to send their children to it, although more are ready to make any excuse, such as want of clothes, for not doing so. They ought to be compelled to send their children to school.

36. *Mr. John Owen*, farmer, Penegos.—In my neighbourhood the farms average about 60*l.* a year rent, and are partly arable and partly pasture. Wheat, barley and oats are grown chiefly for home consumption, but there is generally a surplus of wheat which is sent to market. Children are only employed when hired by the year, generally when they are 12 years old. Parents are too often indifferent to the education of their children, and send them out to service too young. I should say that the farm servants in this county live well, and the salt meat diet does not affect their health. The bread commonly used in my neighbourhood is made of half barley and half wheat. The farm houses are bad, and in a great many there is no separation of the sexes, the rooms of the male and female servants opening into each other and the door not locked. Much immorality is the consequence. A great many farmhouses are without privies and the tenants will not provide them, saying it is the affair of the landlord. The cottages are worse than the farmhouses, and there is little improvement noticeable. My parish is without a day school of any description.

37. *Mr. Edward Davis*, farmer.—I reside four miles from Machynlleth, and rent a mixed farm of 100 acres. The average wages of day agricultural labourers are 12*s.* a week all the year round. The result of my experience is that the labouring classes are desirous of educating their children where there are good schools, but the want is good schoolmasters. The rate of wages in this part of Montgomeryshire is so good that there can be no excuse on the ground of poverty for parents not sending children to school. The state of education among the labouring classes is fair. I should say that nineteen-twentieths can read their own language, and about one-half can write it. English is making progress.

The cottages are very bad, none having more than two rooms, but the small farmhousee in the hill districts are worse than the worst cottages. Many are five miles from any school, consequently it is impossible for the children of these small farmers to obtain any education whatever.

38. *Mr. Edward Jones*, Dolgelly, farmer and innkeeper.—Boys are not generally hired by the year in *this* neighbourhood before 14 years of age, but they get occasional employment during the spring and summer months. Girls are hired as domestic servants, but it is always understood that they are to assist in the outdoor work of the farms. They are taken into service when about 12 years old. Women are employed very extensively on all the farms.

It would be very desirable to place a limit on the age at which boys should be permitted to work for hire on farms, and I think 14 would be the proper one. I would impose a similar limit as to females, because they are employed when very young, and the hours of labour are for them often exceedingly long.

The cottages in this part of Wales are very bad, and very inconveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are built without the least regard to ventilation, and are often overcrowded. Gardens are rare, and in most cases the cottages have not an inch of ground beyond what they stand upon.

39. *Mr. William Davis*, Llanfachreth, Merionethshire, farmer.—In this parish boys are hired as farm servants from 12 years of age and upwards, but farmers employ their own children at a much earlier age. Girls go out as servants at 9 years of age and upwards to assist in indoor work, such as nursing children, &c., and at about 11 years of age in outdoor work. Women servants are employed in agriculture generally.

It would be very desirable if possible that boys should not be allowed to be hired as servants under 15 years of age, but they might be allowed to be employed by their parents, on condition that they are sent to school for a portion of the year. I think it desirable to place the same restriction on female children, and that girls should not be employed in heavy and dirty outdoor work, and that they should not be employed after 7 p.m.

There is one school in the middle of this parish sufficient for 50 children, which is about to be put under Government inspection, but as the parish is large, there are portions of it entirely unprovided with the means of education. The existing school is not taken advantage of principally from its distance, the indifference of parents has also some effect.

Very few cottages in this parish have gardens, the best have small portions of land, about two or three poles, the great majority have none.

40. *Rev. David Evans*, Bala, Merionethshire.—

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Boys are employed in agriculture at all ages in this neighbourhood. Girls are only so employed in hay-time and at corn harvest. I should be disposed to fix the age at which boys should be allowed to work at 10. This parish is 13 miles long by 8 miles wide. All the schools are in the town, at one extremity of the parish, with the exception of a small rural school, which is closed in summer. The means of education, therefore, are very scanty, but I believe people would take advantage of schools for their children in winter if they were accessible. The causes of non-attendance in summer are early labour, and in some instances the utter indifference of parents, particularly of such as are illiterate themselves. The cottages in this parish and the small farm-houses generally have only two rooms, one for cooking and eating, the other for a dormitory. The consequence is that morality is at a very low ebb.

Most of the cottages have small gardens, but in consequence of ignorance and indifference they are badly cultivated, and yield very little profit. Privies are hardly known.

41. *Mr. John Moore*, Kerry, farmer.—Boys are not employed in this parish in agriculture before 10 years of age, when they are hired by the year, commencing on 1st of May. No girls are employed in outdoor work, nor do women work on the land. Boys, when they go out to service, live and board with their employers; they generally go out first as wagon boys and to assist the cowman. I would place the limit at which boys should be allowed to work at 11.

There is a national school at each end of this parish, and an endowed school at the village of Kerry, which is free to all poor boys and girls. In the national school 3*d*. is the charge for the first child, 2*d*. for the second, and 1*d*. for the third, so that for a family of three it costs the parents 6*d*. a week. The attendance is fair, but I think that early labour affects it greatly; indifference on the part of parents certainly does, and I should fully approve of compulsory education.

42. *Rev. J. McIntosh*, rector of Llanerfyl.—In spring and autumn many boys of the age of 9 to 13 are employed in this parish picking stones, scaring birds, with plough horses, &c. Young girls, from 10 to 12 years of age, are very commonly employed in picking stones and binding corn sheaves. If any restriction should be placed on the age at which children are to be allowed to work for hire, I think 12 for boys and 13 for girls would be desirable. The school and the domestic hearth are best for girls. There is an endowed school in this parish within reach of about half of the children of my parishioners, but it is not taken advantage of to the extent it should be. Poverty often induces parents to send their children to service too young, much to their detriment in point of morals.

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. BOYLE'S REPORT.

Mr. Boyle.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE.

At the Monmouth Board of Guardians held at the Board Room, Saturday, November 9th, 1869. Present: S. R. Bosanquet, Esq., Chairman; Captain G. Griffin Tyler, banker, Welsh Newton; Captain Davies, the Garth; J. A. Rolls, Esq.; Rev. R. Jackson; Mr. J. E. Hall, occupier, Mitchell Troy; Mr. O. S. Williams, occupier, the Vauxhall, Monmouth; Mr. Leonard, occupier, Cross Ash; Mr. Webb, occupier, St. Maughan's, Mr. Howells, occupier; Messrs. Walters, B. Price, &c.

R. Boyle, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, attended to gather evidence on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture.

The Chairman, S. R. Bosanquet, Esq., of Dingestow Court, in the parish of Dingestow, introduced Mr. Boyle, and put the questions as they are set down.

Question 1. At what ages, and at what times of the year are boys employed in agriculture on your property or farm, and in your parish generally?

Mr. Hall.—No boys are employed in my neighbourhood.

The Chairman.—I should say as my experience that the children not employed here are those under 12 years of age. I should say that all boys above 13 years of age on an average, and some above 12, and some not until they are 14, are all employed. They all go out, do they not?

Mr. Hall.—Yes, I think so.

Captain Tyler.—I think so.

The Chairman.—That is, they go into the farmhouses and live.

Mr. Hall.—Quite so.

Mr. Boyle.—What work do they do?

Mr. Hall.—Mind horses and waggons.

Captain Tyler.—Boys are used for odd jobs, such as minding the pigs and so on. They keep the crows off in Herefordshire, and at 15 they begin to drive a team.

Mr. Boyle.—Are they ever employed to keep crows off or to drive a team under 12?

The Chairman.—Yes; we cannot get them at school.

Mr. Hall.—I think we should treat the questions in a general sense, not take exceptional cases. I do not think, as a general rule, boys under 12 years of age are employed; in fact, to say the truth, they are no use.

Mr. Williams, the Vauxhall, near Monmouth, farmer.—We want some one to mind them.

The Chairman.—They are sometimes employed to set potatoes and to pick up potatoes.

Captain Tyler.—Very little.

Mr. Leonard.—I think I can answer for two parishes that there is not a boy under 12 years of age sent out to work, that is, Llantillio Crossenny, and a good deal of Skenfrith.

Mr. Boyle.—Have you not to send them out for odd jobs sometimes, say, in the sowing season, or when apple-picking is about?

The Chairman.—We can't get them at school. Unless they pay their penny on the Monday morning they won't go to school at all during that week.

The Chairman.—You will have about 30 on the books, and not more than 20 attend.

Mr. Boyle.—What ages would they be?

The Chairman.—From 13 to 14.

Mr. Boyle.—And they live in the house, I suppose?

The Chairman.—Yes.

The Chairman next put the question of wages.

Mr. Webb.—I generally give them 3*l.*

Mr. Boyle.—Of course living with you?

Mr. Webb.—They have their food and everything.

The Chairman.—There are a great many who do not get their food. I think they generally work a little with their fathers, and get 1*s.* or something like that a week.

Mr. Webb.—There are three or four kept in St. Maughan's now regularly. I have two now, and pay them 1*l.* a year each.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you ever employ any who do not live in the house?

Mr. Webb.—I do not; I can't get them.

Mr. Boyle.—Is that the usual complaint?

Mr. Hall.—That is the general complaint.

The Chairman.—A man's wages are about 12*l.* a year in the house.

Question 2. Are girls so employed, and if so, how many, at what ages, and in what occupation?

The Chairman.—I should say not at all.

Captain Tyler.—They are hardly employed at all, except by their parents, and they send them out into the woods. That is as bad as anything can be. Children get into more mischief by being sent into the woods than by anything else. They pick up whatever they can find and are spoiling the hedges.

The Chairman.—Then, you see, we have a great quantity of coppice wood about here, and when this is cut there is a quantity not fit for other purposes, and they cut it and make faggots of it.

Captain Tyler.—It is a bad thing for the women and children.

Mr. Webb.—And a bad thing for the farmer whose lands adjoin these woods. We suffer from it.

Mr. Boyle.—In what way is it a bad thing for them?

Captain Tyler.—Because they get into a free-booting, roving sort of habit. They would rather go to the woods than go to school a great deal.

Mr. Boyle.—I suppose you have little girls who go apple-picking and minding crows?

Captain Tyler.—Scarcely at all. Sometimes a little girl will go with her brother, but I never see a girl by herself.

The Chairman.—The women who pick my potatoes take their children with them to help them.

Mr. Leonard.—The children are never employed on farm work. The women are employed, and they go with them.

Mr. Boyle.—I suppose the parents get the job and the children go with them?

Mr. Leonard.—Of course, for company.

Captain Davies.—Even that, I should say, was exceptional.

The Chairman.—I should express it in this way: That there are 30 names on the books of the school, and we do not get more than 20 to attend. They are generally going about.

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Mr. Boyle.—I suppose some are kept at home while the women are out to take care of the children?

The Chairman.—Yes, that is so. Some mothers will not insist upon their going to school at all. They indulge them.

Mr. Boyle.—Has poverty anything to do with it. Can they always get their penny?

The Chairman.—Yes.

Question 3. To what extent are women so employed?

Mr. Hall.—We have great difficulty in getting the wives to work. They stay at home and depend upon what their husbands earn. I have four cottages, and I can only get one woman to work. They do a little work in hay-making time, but not so much as they used to years back.

Captain Tyler.—Couching, and so on, they sometimes do.

The Chairman.—That is an exception.

Mr. Hall.—I suppose some people have a happy knack of pleasing them. They won't work for me.

Mr. Boyle.—You find in some parishes a great many go out and do a little in fine weather.

Mr. Hall—In hay-making time they do.

Captain Tyler.—And in weeding wheat.

Mr. Howells (farmer).—All women work out in Herefordshire.

Captain Davies.—There is a great deal of difference between Herefordshire and Monmouthshire in that respect.

Mr. Boyle.—What other work do they do?

Mr. Webb.—They couch, sir.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they work during wet weather at all?

Captain Tyler.—The women can't do anything in wet weather.

Mr. Boyle.—What wages do they get when they do work?

The Chairman.—10*d.* a day about our part, regularly.

Mr. Howells.—They get 1*s.* a day about us, and their drink.

Captain Tyler.—That is in the harvest, is it not?

The Chairman.—10*d.* a day is the regular pay about us.

Mr. Hall.—You will never get them to work in the hay-field under 1*s.* a day. I have to give them about that during hay-time.

Mr. Boyle.—And their drink in hay time? Do they look for that when they work?

Mr. Hall.—Yes.

Question 4. To what distances do the children, young persons, and women employed on your farm and in your parish generally go to work?

Captain Tyler.—They won't go very far, it must be convenient.

The Chairman.—They are all within reasonable distances.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they mostly live on the farms?

The Chairman.—The cottages are not generally upon the farms.

Captain Tyler.—A great many of the labourers' cottages are built on the waste lands; on patches taken in from the roads, and so on. On the Buckholt, the Kynim, and Trelleck, they are all what we call squatters.

The Chairman.—Many of the cottages are built by the sides of the roads; but all, one way or the other, were originally squatters.

Mr. Boyle.—Are a great part of them then freehold?

Captain Tyler.—Some pay cot-rent; but most are freehold.

Mr. Boyle.—That ought to make it better for them, for they have no rent to pay.

The Chairman.—They have good gardens too. In the Forest, for instance, that is so.

Captain Tyler.—I think the labourer in this district is very well off, because coal is cheap, and there it plenty of wood to be got; there are also plenty of cottages at a moderate rent.

Mr. Leonard.—If we have any alteration made by Government, we shall have them good for nothing; they go to school at 12 and 13 years of age, and when they come from there they choose for themselves whether they will go to service or not. In some parishes there is money left to apprentice them

Mr. Howells.—It is the most difficult thing in the world to get a lad to work. If you thrash him that makes it worse again.

Mr. Leonard.—I don't think we want any inquiry here.

The Chairman.—The rule is, that their mothers spoil them; there are a great many complaints about that.

Mr. Leonard.—And if you thrash them and go to a magistrate, they will say you took the law into your own hands, and you must not do it.

Question 5. What are their hours of work?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—I don't think you will get the women to go to work before 8; and they work about nine hours.

Mr. Boyle.—And have a dinner hour in the middle of the day?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—Yes.

Mr. Boyle.—Any other interval?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—No.

Mr. Boyle.—And the boys, do they go out the same time as the men?

Mr. Hall.—The boys go out earlier than the women?

Captain Tyler.—That is about 6 and 7 in the winter.

Mr. Hall.—Then they have two meal hours out of that.

Captain Tyler.—They have their hours the same as the men.

The Chairman.—In harvest and hay-time they have extra time to work, they work later, and get extra pay for it and extra food.

Mr. Hall.—You won't get them to work a minute after the hour or a minute before. It did not use to be the case.—They used to be at the beck and call of the employer.

The Chairman.—That is at 6 o'clock; they go out at 6 o'clock and leave off at 6, and in the middle of the day they get their meal times.

Mr. Boyle.—The boy who keeps birds, I suppose you can't let him go away then?

Mr. Leonard.—There are no birds in this county; it is not like in some counties.

Captain Tyler.—There is not here, as there is in Herefordshire, a great deal of spring sowing. When the wheat is sown in March you must do it.

Mr. Boyle.—Why is it; do you think that you can get on without these boys?

Mr. Leonard.—We havn't got rooks here, nor much game, nor much spring sowing, as they have in many places. In some parts you have to keep them there from daylight till dark; but in this county it is not the same; they go at 7 o'clock in the morning and do what they like, and come home in the evening just the same. There are no regular hours in the county of Monmouth for boys.

Question 6. Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land, and if so, at what age would you place the limit?

The Chairman.—There is no occasion for any restriction.

Question 7. Is it desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females, and especially of the young, in agriculture?

The Chairman.—Young women are never employed, and the old women will take care of themselves. I don't think there is any restriction needed.

Question 8. What means of education are provided in your parish for the children of the agricultural labouring class? Do they take advantage of them? If not, are there any other causes besides early labour to which you attribute their non-attendance?

The Chairman.—That, you know, will be different in every parish.

Mr. Hall.—Most parishes have schools.

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Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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Mr. Leonard.—I don't think there are better places in the world for education than this county. You don't get any parish without two or three schools.

Captain Davies.—I don't think there is a parish in the county without a school.

Mr. Leonard.—We have three with us. There is the Baptist school, the Church school, and the charity school.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you find the labourers send their children to school?

Mr. Leonard.—Yes.

Mr. Boyle.—Would that be the rule everywhere?

The Chairman.—It is rather difficult to get them to school sometimes. The parents indulge them.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you think the parents indulging them is the one great reason?

The Chairman.—Oh, yes. They generally keep them at home for their own convenience.

Question 9. (*a.*) What is the condition of the cottages in your parish and neighbourhood?

Several guardians.—Very good.

The Chairman.—Very good would not coincide with the opinion of some people. What do you consider a good cottage? In our parish they generally have a room and a half down and two rooms up.

Mr. Webb.—We have in our parish generally two rooms down and three up; that is, Rockfield and St. Maughan's.

Mr. Boyle.—You think what there are are good, but there are not enough.

Mr. Webb.—Certainly, and the farmers are injured by it.

Mr. Rolls.—The general complaint is the want of cottages.

Mr. Webb.—They pay no rent, and some build for themselves on the Duke's (Duke of Beaufort's) property.

The Chairman.—The character of these cottages is good.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you find they are good if they are built by themselves?

Mr. Leonard.—There are some very good cottages among them, sir.

The Chairman.—They are improving. The class of cottages they used to build were composed of a kitchen down below and a little side room; two rooms above going up to the ceiling, which was of thatch. Nothing is better than thatch, but thatch is not so much employed now, they use slate.

Mr. Howells.—I rent one of my cottages to one of the men in my employ, and it contains a kitchen, a parlour, a pantry, a back kitchen, and three or four rooms up.

Captain Tyler.—What is the rent?

Mr. Howells.—3*l.* a year. I let it to my waggoner.

The Chairman.—I find now that they build the cottages on a better scale than they used to. Instead of the upper window being under the gable they put them under the eave and ceil their house.

Mr. Boyle.—The cottages of the squatters, are they good?

Captain Tyler.—Some are good and some are very bad.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you mean that they have only one or two rooms?

Captain Tyler.—In some there are no partitions upstairs.

The Clerk.—One of these cottages was sold the other day for 13*l.*

(*b.*) Are they sufficient for the supply of the labour required?

Captain Tyler.—I should say they were.

The Chairman.—I think there is a little difficulty about us.

Mr. Leonard.—Yes; I think there ought to be more cottages, we should have a better sample of labourers if we had more cottages.

Mr. Webb.—In Llangattock and St. Maughan's we are badly off for cottages.

Mr. Boyle.—There are not enough. Do they come from the town to work?

Mr. Webb.—No, sir, we must pick them up where we can; and we are bound to keep the men in the house.

Mr. Hall.—In the parish of Mitchell Troy there is a lot of cottages.

Mr. Boyle.—It is a very general custom about this district, is it not, to have your labourers living in the house?

The Chairman.—Every farmer has got two or three, that is, in a tolerably sized farm. The rest live out; but the unmarried ones live in the house.

Mr. Boyle.—No married ones live in the house?

The Chairman.—Oh, no.

Captain Davies.—It is a custom, though very much on the decrease.

Mr. Boyle.—As the accommodation in the cottages improves?

Captain Davies.—I suppose so, or else their habits are altered.

Captain Tyler.—The farmers don't like to have them in the house, and they don't keep the number they used to.

The Chairman.—Those in the house work when they are wanted, morning and night; the out-door ones are restricted to 6 and 6.

(*c.*) Are they conveniently situated with respect to the farms?

Generally.

(*d.*) Are they overcrowded, and have any evil results to morality come under your notice in consequence?

Mr. Boyle.—Is there any overcrowding in the cottages?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—Not that I am aware of.

Captain Tyler.—Oh, no.

Captain Davies.—About West Dean, I think, they are a little; but that affects the mining population instead of the agricultural population.

Captain Tyler.—As a rule they are the proprietors of their own cottages.

(*e.*) Are they well supplied with water, and well ventilated.

The Chairman.—The ventilation is generally bad.

Captain Tyler.—Yes, generally; if there is a window that opens they will fasten it up.

The Chairman.—If you had the best ventilation in the world they would stop it up.

Captain Tyler.—It is not the fault of the cottages; it is the habits of the people.

The Chairman.—As for water, they always go to the well for it. This is a well watered country. There is always a well within a reasonable distance.

Captain Tyler.—This country is so undulated. It differs every half mile.

Question 10. Have all the cottages in your parish and neighbourhood good gardens, or, in default of gardens, have all the cottagers allotments of land conveniently situated for the use of labourers and their families?

Captain Davies.—They have everywhere, I should say.

The Chairman.—As they are squatters they generally have some little garden.

(This concluded the Inquiry.)

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2. Supplement to Meeting of Monmouth Board of Guardians.

Monmouth Market, November 9, 1869.

Farmer, *loq.*—"I mean to tell you, sir, that the "labourer here is better off than any Government "Commissioner sitting beside a table. Why are they "so well off, sir? Why, they are independent, and "that is as much or more nor you nor I can say we "are. He gets his money, his 12*s.* o' Saturday night, "and he pays his debts, which is more than you nor "me nor many another can always say. What we do "want, sir, is more cottages. We farmers couldn't "well say it in there, because there was landowners "and farmers mixed. What cottages we have got is "plenty good enough, but what we do want is more

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"of them. The people are well enough off in this "county and in the adjoining. Can't see why they "are not so well off in other counties. Must be some "bad management somewhere. I hope you will give "a good report of our county, sir."

3. *Mr. Wherrett*, occupier, Newland.—The rate of wages is rather lower close to Monmouth than towards the forest. There they will often get 12*s.* a week and liquor, having to pay 5*l.* or 6*l.* for a cottage. At the mines they will often make 1*l.* a week, but do not get drink. They work by job work. Work is also done in agriculture by job work. A man will often get 10*s.* an acre for reaping. The people in a mixed mining and agricultural district are not so content as in a purely agricultural district. They are more idle, and spend more money in drink. In the forest agricultural wages are a full shilling higher—12*s.* and cider. They are a better set than the miners, who drink a great deal more. Those with the best wages are not always the best off.

4. *Mr. Williams*, solicitor, and clerk of union, Monmouth.—Up towards the Graig soil heavy and wet, and you cannot get women out; besides, few turnips up there; cannot feed it off. More work towards Raglan, but little beyond turnip work.

Generally have a boy to help lead the horses; begins at 12 or 13; worth about 3*l.* a year, and taken to live in the house. They don't stay long in same service. There is a scarcity of boy labour, and they go away to other places; there is a scarcity of labour altogether. If a boy gets in a scrape he goes off to the hills. There is three to one as much arable as pasture in the district. There is not much bird-keeping. Farmers are very fond of covering a field with string, and it answers very well. The average wages are about 11*s.*, and two quarts of cider a day. You cannot value the cider at more than 4*d.* a gallon, therefore the cider drunk is equivalent to 1*s.* more. Farmer drinks the same.

No harm comes of the hiring fairs except the militia were out. Now it is taken care that it should not be at the same time; and last time there were not more than a case or two of drunkenness before the magistrates. Women often only hire themselves out from mopday to mopday, and go back to the same place; they will have their day out, and that the mopday, as a holiday.

Many affiliation cases; more in the Raglan than Skenfrith division, but probably not more than half a dozen in a year altogether.

A deal of harm comes to the town people, principally to the boys and girls, from going "to wood," *i.e.*, to gather wood, a sort of gleaning. The distance they go is about two miles. A good many spend all their time thus. It is usually for firing, but at certain times they are allowed to cut bean-sticks. This goes on mostly in the Forest of Dean, coming down within two miles of Monmouth.

Parish of Grosemont.

Population, 700 - Acreage, 7,000.

5. *James Lane, M.D.*, Grosemont—The cultivation is mixed, far from good, but improving. The four-course system is followed. The greater part of the land is inferior pasture devoted to the rearing of stock. Boys under 13 are very rarely employed. Young women are never employed in this neighbourhood on the farms. Occasionally in the haymaking season and harvest a few grown-up girls and women are so employed. Too many of the girls stay at home and are spoiled by their parents, who indulge them much in this class of life. Very bad results follow. When Dr. Lane first came the women used to work a great deal more than they do now; they would come down after midnight so as to do a long day's working at a farm. They work now to a trifling extent, for they manifest a great deal of indifference as to employment of any kind. "I am told it is considered as inferior for a woman to "attend and do the washing of an establishment. "When women are employed their hours of work "are not many, as they generally perform their own "household duties before they leave home, and re-"turn early in the evening for the same purpose. "There is no school at present, which is the more to "be lamented because there are very many children "in need of it, and the money left to provide the "means of education, 800*l.*, may be considered liberal "in a small parish." The old master is gone, and the new one not come yet. The dissenting Sunday school has about 70 or 80 children. There is a middle class school, but no sons of labourers at that. Sons of farmers and shopkeepers come from other parishes.

"Some of the cottages are wretched hovels, not fit "habitations for human beings; several have been "suffered to fall into decay." Two reasons are assigned for this: one the fear of poachers, the other the wish to throw the rates on another parish; but the latter reason does not operate now. There were a great many small freeholds along the road, but most were bought up and pulled down. The people cling to them as long as they can, long after they are mortgaged. There is not, however, such a want of labourers' cottages here as in many other places. The farmers do a great deal of the work with servants living in the house. "They have all gardens."

Parish of Llangattock Vibonavel.

6. *John Allan Rolls* (son of owner).—Population of parish about 500; acreage, 4,138. Cultivation mixed. "Boys about 10 years of age are employed in "driving with the plough, 'keeping' birds, minding "pigs. The greater part of the year boys of that age "are employed on the farms; those so employed "generally board and lodge with the farmer." No girls are employed, and women only in harvest. There is a good National and Sunday school. The cottages are in a fair condition, sufficient for the present requirements, and tolerably conveniently situate. All have gardens, some good, some bad.

Parish of Llantilio Crossenny.

Population, 748 - Area, 5,951 A.

7. *Hon. F. Clifford-Butler*, farms Colonel Clifford's home-farm, called the Park Farm, because originally old Raglan deer-park, about 370 acres, of which about half is arable, but grass preponderates in the rest of the parish.—Employs three women among the swedes and in harvest, &c., and gives them 1*s.* a day. Very respectable all of them. "Very few women in "this parish *will* do outdoor work on a farm, although "farmers are often pressed for want of more hands "during the haymaking and harvest. No girls are "employed on my farm, nor am I aware that any "girls in this parish are employed in outdoor work. "Girls enter service in farmhouses from 14 years "upwards, but, with very few exceptions, their work "is confined to the house. On my farm a boy of 13 "or 14 years is sometimes employed to keep crows "from a newly-sown field. In this parish boys very "generally go into service at about 14 years old, and "in most instances they live in the farmhouses, un-"less their parent's cottage is near at hand." The cottages are moderately good, and sufficient in number for the supply of labour which can be obtained. Many young able-bodied men leave the parish for work in the mineral districts.

8. Extract from Diary.

Friday, 28 October 1869.

At Colonel Clifford's home farm saw two women working on one field cutting turnips with a boy; the eldest was a married woman, Mrs. Jones. "Only work for Mr. Butler; like to do it; is cutting "off the tops of the swedes. The boy is hers; he is "8 years old; is supposed to be keeping crows in "the other field. 'Here, you be off to the other field.' "He goes to school; will be going back to school "now. Asked Mr. Harvey yesterday if he could go "next week, but Mr. Harvey says he will want him. "Wants a coat for him very bad to keep him warm "this cold weather. It is almost too cold for him "keeping birds now." Mrs. Jones has a husband a good deal younger than herself in receipt of 2*s.* 6*d.* a day wages; she herself makes 1*s.* a day, so she is very

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Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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well off. The other woman was a younger woman, and had been out at service.

9. *Rev. David Davies*, vicar of Llantilio Crossenny.—Boys are sometimes employed as early as 9 or 10 years old; but as a general rule they are kept in the parish school until 12 or 13 years of age. There is an endowed grammar school, free to the children of all inhabitants. There is hardly a farmer's or labourer's child who does not attend the school; some of them, especially small farmers' children, do not attend as regularly as could be wished, in consequence of being occasionally at farm-work. Labourers' children are also employed at different seasons crow-scaring. As a general rule boys who leave school early make the best agricultural labourers. Those who continue at school until they are 13 or 14 years of age very generally obtain situations on railroads, in gentlemen's service, and in the police force.

Girls are seldom if ever employed in agricultural labour; they are generally engaged for indoor service not younger than 13 years of age. About three-fourths of the labourers' wives of this parish are employed in farm-labour. No restriction necessary as far as this parish is concerned.

In the months of July and August small gangs of people from Herefordshire, accompanied by dirty and ragged children, come to this parish for turnip-hoeing.

10. *Schoolmaster*.—Find the children taken away during the hay and corn harvests. Sometimes get them for a short time between the harvests. Holidays are given in August for the harvest, and after that comes the potato-picking and apple-picking, and after that do not get them till November. After that they stay pretty well till the mowing begins.

We see little of small farmers' boys in the working season. Being a free school the people know they can send their children any day; it is not important, as when the money is paid on Monday, for them to come the whole week; many will come only 20 days in the year.

It is not general to take the children away very young; labourers will sometimes leave a boy till 12 or 14 years of age; but most go rather earlier. Small farmers will take them away altogether at 16 or 17, but their attendance while at school is more irregular. One farmer has four boys, whom he worked very young; it was on his own farm. Girls stay as long as boys, and few of them do field-work except what they do with their parents They are, however, much kept at home while their parents are at work; this is serious from May to November.

Total on books - - -	98
Average attendance - - -	70

In summer the average attendance is about 20 per cent. less than in winter. There are more boys than girls, some of the latter being kept at home for nursing.

11. *Mr. Roper*, farmer and bailiff to Colonel Morgan Clifford.—1. The boys here are a little better off than in the neighbouring parishes; there is a marked difference in the conduct, they are better behaved and more respectful. We have never had a boy under 13 in the farmhouse. They are not wanted to drive plough now. The soil is light, and ploughed with a pair of horses. Used to want a boy for ploughing with oxen; but that is gone out now. They are employed keeping birds for a month, and sometimes help their parents among turnips. We sometimes have had gangs of seven or eight boys from Herefordshire to do the turnip-hoeing, and some children among them are only 8 years of age, poor and emaciated looking; but never see them less than 8; all appear to be related, the little ones seem to be younger brothers. We find in this county no respectable man ever changes employment. The ordinary wages are 12*s.* and two quarts of cider. A good man often makes 18*s.* a week. We keep two men; give victuals two months in summer. Give a cottage, which is valued at 2*s.* a week. Employ their wives a good deal, and give advantages.

Don't employ women as much now machinery has come in. Women work by the piece, cut thistles, pick potatoes, &c. Give preference to labourers' wives. We are particular as to character. Think the woman who comes out better and more healthy looking than the woman who stays at home. A woman too lazy to work is too lazy to take care of the home.

Farm 300 acres, which require four men and a boy to manage; one man and a boy live in the house. We have four cottages, more than wanted; we let them to other farmers.

Boys about 10 keep birds. Boys left alone or in large families get to work at 8 or 9, and buckle to agricultural pursuits and are more satisfied; but there is an ambition to keep the children at school and raise them. They turn out well generally.

There are many small farmers, whose children work harder than labourers' children.

No girls work out. We keep two in the farm; they come to service at 13 or 14, except in large families, where perhaps a younger girl will go to nurse. They do not often go out. At Llanarth, where there are many Irish, a farmer will take his wife and children, both boys and girls, out to dig potatoes. There are rare instances of girls going out. One up at White Castle goes out; she had a child, and her mother took her out. The women are generally a good class; not many drunkards. There is not one case in four where a woman marries in the family way.

Towards Clytha all the land is ploughed; but here about half and half. Half the parish is a very stiff soil, the rest light.

Scarcely a case where not quite sufficient accommodation in cottages. Morals are good, and children of the two sexes are kept apart.

12. *Sydney Miles* (age 13).—Father is a farmer; farms 60 or 70 acres. Works for father; first began to work at 8 or 9; do a little of everything. Work about four months in the year; chiefly drive horses for the plough.

13. *Thomas Powell* (13 next June).—Began to drive horses at 6 years old. Farmer only gave me victuals at first; began to pay me something about three years ago; gave me 2*l.* a year.

14. *Isaac Price*, does not know his age; between 12 and 13.—Works for father; father farms 170 acres. Drives horses for father. Does not know how old when began.

15. *George Howell* (age 12).—Works for father; father is a farmer; drives horses for him, always drives horses. Has three brothers, one of whom is younger, he is at school. Began to work at 8 or 9; used to come to school before; likes to come to school best; does more work than school. Keeps crows sometimes; takes 15 hours to keep crows; comes home to dinner. Father farms about 15 acres. Only me and my brother work. Found when I began I could manage the horses all right.

16. *Elizabeth Pugh* (age 11).—Goes haymaking for father. Father is a farmer. Frightens birds off the wheat; does it in winter and spring; does not like doing it very well; goes out after breakfast and stays till 5; never did it before this year.

17. *Sarah Ann Kinsey* (age 9 last November).—Father is a labourer. Has one brother. Mother does no out-door work except haymaking. I have been out picking potatoes in Mr. Johnson's field; picks apples besides. Comes to school most of the year.

18. *Ada Williams* (8 years).—Goes picking potatoes.

Parish of Raglan.

Population, 905 - Acreage, 4,083.

19. *Rev. A. M. Wyatt*, vicar.—If education is to make any progress, I venture to think boys should not go to work before the age of 12. We have a good National and infant school, and the Baptists have a day school. The average attendance is fair. The non-attendance of children is chiefly attributable to the carelessness and indifference of the parents. One of the great drawbacks of it is the quantity of squatters, who pay perhaps 6*d.* an acre. Lord Abergavenny, in the north of the county, who had many of the same, repaired the cottages and raised the rents, and the people

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liked it. Here it is all very well the look of it, each person with his small holding; but there is great misery, in many of them large families huddling in only two rooms. They have built on bits of ground that have positively been taken from the Duke, but by neglect in past time have passed into their hands, and now he has no power over them but taking the nominal rent.

The crowding produces great immorality, and another fertile source of immorality is the little care taken of farm servants, who are out working late, and the men and women passing through one anothers' rooms to their own. Most of the women married in these parishes are going to have a child, and they see little harm in it. *Bundling*, though denied here, does prevail, and of course leads to worse. There is too not the feeling now among the farmers about a servant having a child. They will generally take her back; in fact, they are forced to do so, for there is such a scarcity of labour of any kind now.

No boys stay at school longer than 11; most go at 10; they are taken into the farms and live there. It is very demoralizing, for they are not looked after. Wages are 12*s.*, out of which they have to provide the cottage; but many of them have a cottage of their own.

The worst girls are, however, generally those who stay at home; they soon get beyond their parents' control. The parents indulge them a great deal, and very often do not like to part with them; but when he himself sees a girl of 14 or 15 loitering at home, he begins to ask when she is going out to service.

Has a night school and 22 pupils, open four nights, and he and the curate take it alternately. Thinks that the real reason there are so few in this country is the want of teachers. You cannot expect a schoolmaster tired with a long day's work to undertake it.

Wages would be perhaps 10*s.* or 11*s.* and cider, but the men are only paid for each day they come, not for a wet day; usual pay perhaps 2*s.* a day.

19*a*. *Mrs. Bridge*, schoolmistress. — Children are not so much taken away from school here to do farmwork as in most country villages near. This is more like a town.

No girl does much out-door work. Boys are taken away for a time very often, but they come back generally. They go to mind the birds. Some have been away, and are away now, for potato-picking. Some go very young, at 7 or 8 years of age. In summer quite a third of the children in the school go. They come back about now, and will be off again about the spring.

Girls are much kept at home to nurse while mothers go out.

There are between 70 and 80 children in the school.

The Baptist school takes a great many of the children, but there are few who do not go to any school at all. There is an evening school, but Mr. Wyatt undertakes that.

20. Squatters' cottages at Raglan.—Extract from Diary, November 9, 1869.

Most of the cottages on the outskirts of this parish belong to squatters, who have settled down on bits of ground along the side of the road, which were left formerly when land was not so much prized as it is now. Landlord's rights over the squatters or cotters are really very questionable, but in most cases are compromised for a few shillings a year. At Raglan they extend along the road to Monmouth for some distance, and are scattered here and there beyond the parish, also along the adjacent lanes. They vary in quality from excellent slated cottages with two windows on each side of the door, to mere hovels with only one storey and a thatched roof. Every one has a long narrow strip of garden or orchard along the road side. The worst we saw was one of these last, only occupied, however, by an old blind woman, to whom it belonged; her daughter, whom we found, a woman of about 50, there taking care of her, said she recollected her mother being there "before she was born." It consisted of only two rooms, neat enough, and all very well where no large family. There was another very bad, but with a slated roof, built against a much better cottage; it has a room above, and a room below; in it lives a woman of very bad character, who is supposed to have had a child by a very near relation. Many of the cottages bore the appearance of being quite new or lately done up, and had taken the place of hovels that had before existed. One of these the Rev. W. Davis showed me that had obtained the prize for neatness. We saw also the two cottages Mr. Wyatt, of Troy House, described as having been built as model cottages for the Duke of Beaufort. Dress stone and slate very neat, and standing back from the road in their own gardens.

21. Diary, November 9, 1869.

Man returning from market, *loq.*, "The Duke has a sight of property; nearly all the way from Raglan to Monmouth, both sides of the road, is his. People very badly off; get, perhaps, their 10*s* a week, and a lot of cider. Those men breaking stones can get 3*s.* a day; breaking by the yard 10*d.* a yard. Some cannot do half a yard at first. I couldn't do half a yard. There's a many of the poor creatures get their money on Saturday, drink it all, and have not a bit to eat Sunday. Near all the women work cutting turnips; very hard work for the poor things. Get 8*d.* or 10*d.*; they come out in harvest; don't go out much in wet. Little boys begin very early, 8 to 10; get perhaps 1*d.* a day at first, but they should begin soon; never do well if they take to labour later. Get lazy when they are big boys."

PARISH OF LLANDENNY.

22. *Rev. W. Davis*, curate.—Is Mr. Wyatt's curate for Llandenny, which being a living of only 50*l.* is joined to Raglan. Consists of three hamlets, one of which is up on the hills, and is a great stronghold of dissent; it has Baptist and Methodist chapels. It consists of cotters, and some of the cottages are very bad. Are a civil people, and glad enough to see him, and he thinks were they nearer would come to church. Has a school at Llandenny, but only 20*l.* to give the master, who is one of the old fashioned school. Of course there are some families who never send their children; when remonstrated with they say they want them to work, or to stay at home and mind the children while they are out themselves. Boys lead horses; are not really wanted, but taken to turn the horse at the furrow. Women do not work much. Go out among the turnips. There is a great scarcity of labour. Most of the big boys go off to the mines. The girls go into service chiefly, mostly in the towns; they do not care about service in farms, and like getting off to towns, where they get more finery.

PARISH OF DINGESTOW.

23. *S. R. Bosanquet, Esq.*, Dingestow Court, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and Chairman of the Monmouth Board of Guardians. (Area of parish 1,885 A. 2 R.; population 231. The cultivation is more pastoral than arable. Cattle are fed and sold into other counties; the pastures are fine.)

"No children are permanently employed. Three or four boys (not children of the farmers) live in the farmhouses, being housed and fed, and having on an average 3*l.* wages, and six girls. I do not reckon haymaking, when all turn out. Boys are employed in driving team, girls in dairy and house work; their hours are 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; they work about the stables, cattle-sheds, and in the houses whenever wanted; those in the farmhouses work all hours. They take their meals with the family.

"No alternative of schooling and work need be prescribed here, but if at all, it should be by alternate weeks, not days, as a penny a week is paid for schooling, and work interrupted by alternate days would be useless.

"There is a National school supported by the principal owner. The children pay a penny a week, the number on the books being upwards of 30,

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about 20 attend on an average. The parents often keep them at home to assist them. The weather affects the attendance, but not greatly, none come a mile to school. All, with scarcely an exception, are able to pay their penny a week.

"The girls in the school are taught needlework, and they sweep out the school, &c. by turns."

Farmers in the parish can recollect Dingestow being the only parish in the neighbourhood that had a school, and children used to come to it from all surrounding parishes. Now, of course, the attendance is not so large, and there are few children from other parishes.

"Morals are not affected by the state of the cottages; the cottages (and also the farmhouses) have mostly stone floors. The general climate of the country is damp, but less so than 20 years ago from the extension of draining. Rheumatism prevails, but to a much diminished extent. I think they contract it out of doors, not in their cottages." There is no overcrowding, as it happens there are no large families.

"The cottages consist of two unequal rooms below, and two equal rooms above. The internal width of the building 14 to 16 feet; the lower rooms 14 or 16 feet, and 6 feet long = 20 or 22 feet, and 11 or 10 long each above. The ventilation is by casement windows. There is no system of draining,-only open gutters into the nearest ditch. The water is drawn from mills at greater or less distances. All have gardens, an outhouse, and pigsty. All the cottages were originally built by the labourers themselves on slips of land on the roadside. Most of them have been offered to and purchased by the principal owner in the parish in the present generation. All have gardens, which pay the rents, which are from 3*l.* to 4*l.* The recently built cottages are better than those above described.

"When I came into the property all the cottages were owned by squatters, but now have bought them all up. The people came and asked him to do it. After he had once begun, some who had to pay small head-rent tried to induce him to do the same, but he only bought the simple freeholder. Is not so well provided with cottages as he could wish, and one or two of the farmers have asked him when putting up their farm buildings to add a cottage. Cottages are, however, not so necessary in this county; the custom prevails much of the labourers being in the house. A farmer will often have two men and two women besides boys living in the house, and one cottage per 100 acres is sufficient. Has a printed statement that no lodgers are to be admitted, but it is often eluded. In a case where it does not produce crowding takes no notice, but if it does enforces it.

"The only work that women do out is weeding corn; sometimes sees as many as eight doing it in a row; setting potatoes and picking them, in which the boys also join. The children too spend some time picking up acorns in the extensive rich coppices for the pigs. Nearly everyone keeps a pig. The farmers ought to be well off here; they have an excellent market at Pontypool.

"Cottages cannot be built on self-supporting terms without an increase of the rents, which are low.

"Wages are good and improving, but higher rents could not be paid without inconvenience to the labouring class."

Wages are high owing to the mines being near, and it ends in the number of labourers on each farm employed being as few as possible. The cultivation is mixed, about half arable. Mr. Bosanquet has only 100 acres in hand, all grass, just about the house.

Parish of Mitchel Troy.

Population - 385.

24. — *Wyatt, Esq.*, agent to the Duke of Beaufort, Troy House.—The Duke of Beaufort has property in about 60 parishes, most on this side of the county, in some nearly the whole parish, in others but a few farms. He has sold a good deal about Magor, because it was taxed to nearly its full value to preserve the sea-wall.

The "Duke's cotters" are a great disadvantage to him; remarks, owing to the badness of their cottages, are often made undeservedly; he can do nothing for them but pull them down altogether, or improve them, and raise the rent. To do the latter is very difficult, for they do not at all understand the value of a good cottage. They are content to sleep huddled all together in one room, and they would be too poor to pay the value of a good cottage. They are much poorer than the ordinary agricultural labourer who gets his 2*s.* a day. They will work for 1*s.* 6*d.*, but only work by job work, getting a job from a farmer now and then. Besides this some of them have holdings up to 10 acres, which they work with their wives and children. Most of them have built their cottages close to the woods, and a good deal of pilfering goes on, as they help themselves to firing from the copses belonging to the Duke and others. You will meet women and children going openly about with hatchets for the purpose. There are many such cottages about Devauden Green, close to which is Chepstow Park, a wood of 1,200 acres belonging to the Duke. There are in all on his property as many as 800 cotters. They are all natives of the county, and it began originally from some such case as this: A new road was made, cutting off a bit of a field, and the next farmer did not feel he had a right to take it into his farm; so some one came and built a little cottage, and brought the corner under cultivation; a very bad cottage at first, improving as he felt more secure in his occupation. There was an Enclosure Act for the five parishes about here, Llanishen, Trelleck, &c., about 20 years ago. A good many people had rights; the Duke is lord of 18 manors.

As a rule the cottages about here are not good or sufficient in number; there is a lack of capital, and capital is required for the purpose. Built two model cottages some time ago close to Raglan, with three bedrooms each; they cost 180*l.* each, and let for 7*l.* apiece; but that is too high a rent to be paid by a farm labourer; a carpenter lives in one.

A good many of the labourers live in the farmhouses, but the married men require cottages. A great many of them live in the villages, and come out to work, there not being a sufficiency of cottages on the farm. A short time ago, was building a good new farm building, and offered to put up a cottage close to it, but the farmer felt he would rather have a man living in the house.

The cottages have mostly two bedrooms, but there are some in which the people all live crowded in one bedroom. There is a good deal of overcrowding.

Wages are high owing to the hills being near (mines). Labour both of men and women is scarce. Women do light work, as in harvest, and also among turnips. Boys do little work before 16.

One of the greatest evils of this county is the "hiring fairs," called locally "mop fairs." They spread from here on into Glamorganshire and the South of Wales generally. As many as 500 young men and women, all natives of the county, come to the great mop fair at Monmouth; it takes place in May. They hire themselves out for the year, and most of them come back again at the end of the year to the next fair. They are generally worse characters than people who keep steadily to one place; they seem fond of change, and never become attached to one locality. It is a very demoralizing system; they do a deal of harm in the town; each public house has its fiddler, and a dance generally takes place. They are almost all unmarried; they are hired as indoor servants, that is, to live in the farms, the men to work out in the fields, and the women also in some cases, milking, &c. These mop fairs will not be done away with till education is more appreciated. It is not appreciated among the labourers as much as among the farmers. A labourer will take his boy of 10 out to lead the team while he himself ploughs, not for any pay from the farmer however. Education is improving.

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25. *Venerable Archdeacon Sleeman.*—Has only been here eight months. Has to complain very much of the crowded state of cottages in agricultural parishes. Had a parish in Devonshire, where it was far worse than it is here; the natural consequences result. Very fond of taking in lodgers.

26. *Rev. Mr. Still*, curate, says, that much overcrowding produces many evil results, even here. Mentioned a case of a woman who had had a child by her uncle; they were married since before the registrar, though told it was impossible they could be legally man and wife. A great number of the cottages are what are called cot-rents; some are very good, some very bad; some have only two rooms. There is one upon the common quite tumbling down, that consists of two low rooms thatched. Some of the others belong to a Mr. —, in Monmouth; they are big enough, but not in very good repair.

The women work out very little in this parish and in Cwmcarvan, which is attached to it. Cwmcarvan is of rather a different character, containing some small holdings, whereas in Mitchel Troy are one or two large farms. The boys are taken away a good deal from school, and it interferes much with the school work. They go at 10 to mind horses, and live in the farmhouse. Girls are kept at home to mind the small children, but come on the whole more regularly than boys.

27. *Mrs. Hoskins*, wife of labourer.—Husband has very bad health; when in work can earn 12*s.* a week; sometimes only earns 2*s.* a week. Last week had to earn nearly all the money myself; am quite ready and willing to turn my hand to any work, outdoor or indoor; do a great deal of outdoor work; can weed; go singling swedes and turnips. Pulling swedes is very hard work, but am glad to be able to do something. Get 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day, and some drink. Go out haymaking and harvesting; get for that 1*s.* a day, no food, except a meal now and then. Not many women in the parish go out to work [tone rather contemptuous of those who do not]; some will go out with their husbands, cutting, while he pulls swedes.

When I go out I am obliged to leave the children to take care of themselves; one is only a few months old, and none are old enough to take any real care of the others. I lock them into the kitchen, and they play about. Must leave a bit of fire because of the supper, but it is dangerous, and I am always afraid they may come to some harm. Still we are so poor, must go out to work. Some girls will go out to work, those who happen to be out of place at the time, and work just like the married women.

28. Cottages at Mitchel Troy.

1. *Mrs. Sherman* pays 4*l.* to Mr. ——. A very dilapidated looking cottage. Has two rooms below; you enter into the big kitchen, and a back kitchen is built at right angles to it, without a communication through the house. It has three rooms above. Stone and slate.

2. *Mrs. Meredith* pays 4*l.* 4*s.* to Mr. ——. Could be made a good enough cottage, as it is tolerably roomy; has three windows above, and one on each side of the door, but not in a good state of repair; chimney has fallen down. Was in hopes her visitor was her landlord come to see what could be done for her. Stone and slate. The room smokes. There are two rooms downstairs, and three above, but all those above open into one another, and the staircase opens into the first. The third room is no good at all; it is open to the roof; it is very hot in summer, and cold in winter.

3. *Mrs. Hoskins* pays 4*l.* also to Mr. ——. It is a smaller cottage than either of the above. Has only two rooms above, and the same below, of which one is very small.

PARISH OF PEN-Y-CLAWDD.

Population, 60 - Acreage, 614.

Cultivation mixed.

29. *Rev. Kenyon Homfray*, vicar.—Boys are "generally employed at 12, sometimes as early as 10; "it would be desirable in most cases they should stay "a year longer at school. There is a day school, at "which about 20 attend, but the parents do not send "their children very regularly, as they find it more "profitable to employ them at home, especially for "clearing and raising potatoes."

Girls do not work out. Women "are employed by "the farmers in weeding wheat, apple-picking, and "stone-picking."

"The cottages are fairly good, sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situate, not at present overcrowded; but none of them have water without fetching it from a distant spring; all have gardens large enough for their use."

PARISH OF PENALT.

Population under 500 - . Acreage, 2,320.

Cultivation arable, pasture, and wood.

30. *Rev. W. Oakley*, owner, Snakescroft.—"The "children are scarcely ever employed except by their "parents, unless for a short time in the year bird-"keeping." A boy will go to keep birds for a farmer at perhaps 10 years of age. The parents have small holdings, which they work with the help of their wives and families. "Girls are very rarely employed for "bird-keeping, but by their parents for potato-"picking, harvesting, and apple-picking." Employed lately a girl of 13 or 14 about the place. "A few "women are employed for haymaking, picking "swedes, singling roots, planting potatoes, &c." Not many. Mr. Oakley employs two old women, whom he can generally get for his garden; if he wants another it is difficult to find her.

There is a day school and a Sunday school. The dissenters also have a Sunday school.

PARISH OF TRELLECK.

Population, 991.

31. *Rev. C. A. F. Kuper*, vicar.—There are some few women who go out to work in this parish, but very few. They are not any worse in character for that reason, but of course it is the poorer women who go out. Boys do not work very young. The great things that interfere with the school attendance are the nutting and whin harvests, times at which every child is taken away; they come back however.

32. *Mr. Hewlett*, occupier.—Farms about 300 acres. To work this he requires six men in all, including job men and day men; none of them live in the house; that is done further up the county, not about here. About two-thirds of the farm are arable.

Has no women regularly employed; sometimes one or two will however come out to pull swedes, but that is as often done by men and children. Now there is a great difficulty in getting a woman; perhaps a dozen in the whole parish will come out in harvest time and hay-making. Most of them pick whinberries and nuts to sell; it is very difficult ever to get a servant about here.

The people he employs are mostly cotters. Has but one cottage on the farm, and that is out of repair; but cottages are not wanted much, the people have their own. Two of the men (young men) live in the village; two have two miles to walk. They mostly have small holdings of their own, and that often takes them away for some time when most wanted. Last week one of my men was away nearly the whole week. Some have two acres, some more. Pay the men by the day, 1*s.* 8*d.* a day and drink; that is about the average here; some get a little more; some make

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more in harvest. Pay wet or fine weather; if the weather is wet there is always work to be done about the farm.

A number of the people here reap and mow in the summer, and do work among the woods ("go to wood") in the winter; perhaps on the whole, though getting higher wages when in work, they are not so well off as my men, being often out of work.

Get a boy of 14 or 15 to keep birds and mind horses in the summer. Some people keep a boy or two in the house; I never do; feed one, but he usually lodges out. Have to pay 8*d.* a day to one as would be any use, and a woman about 9*d.* or 10*d.*; but have not employed one this year. Six men is quite enough for regular work; reaping, mowing, and hedging is let. Men sufficient are always to be got for the reaping. They get in harvest 2*s.* a day and food. Gave drink till this year; gave none this year, but more money instead; the men seemed to like it as well. Forced to buy all the cider up here, it is too cold for orchards.

The lower class as a rule are well off; they have most of them their cottages at nominal rents. There are few freeholds, and those that have to pay an acknowledgment cannot mortgage. Some are terribly out of order.

Some of the land is very poor, cold, and hungry; but some good.

33. *Mr. Williams*, Crown Inn, Trelleck, occupier.—Farms himself; makes cheese; the cheese about here is very good. The land is mostly poor, but some good. Hold land under the Romseys. Wages about 10*s.* in the district; have to find cottage, but most have cottages of their own. Not much cider grown here; it does not grow so high up. Mr. Hewlett has orchards. The people are well off here; they get besides their money bits of perquisites, such as firing, feed of a pig.

Yes, some of the women work; they pull swedes; not many get as much as 1*s.* a day. There is plenty of dissent; seven chapels within 2½ miles.

Parish of Llandogo.

Population, 648.

34. *Colonel Rooke*, Bigswear House.—Llandogo is rather a peculiar parish, lying along the Wye, half in Gloucestershire half in Monmouth. It consists of low meadow land beside the river, nearly all of which belongs to Colonel Rooke, and the woods on the hills, most of which belong to the Duke of Beaufort, the rest to Colonel Rooke. Besides this there are a great many small freeholds and copyholds held on nominal rents, those of the Duke on the Monmouth side, of Colonel Rooke on the Gloucester.

They obtained pieces of land by squatting in a corner originally of the wood or common when people were not so careful of their rights as they are now, and gradually enclosed an acre or two, holding it so long before inquiry was made into it that they established a right.

They are not a bad sort of people, but rather given to poaching and pilfering, helping themselves to firewood from the woods. Nearly every one, even a man who has no room to pasture him, keeps a donkey, and will keep him at home all day, turning him out at night, and sending a boy perhaps at 4 o'clock to look for him. He is often left out in the wood or road the whole week, until the day comes round when he is wanted to fetch grain for the pigs. There are generally two or three in the pounds.

Their cottages certainly are bad, and many families live in only two rooms; but the immorality is not so much to be attributed to this as to the manner in which the boys and girls from 13 to 18 go about together. As a magistrate a great many affiliation cases come before him. A clergyman in the neighbourhood said that he seldom married a girl who had not already had a child; they generally marry the father of the child, but not always.

The thing productive of most evil is the whinberry harvest, when all the women and children turn out, and the boys and girls wander about the woods together. In a minor degree the nutting, picking acorns, and going to town to fetch grain is productive of like ill. Recollects seeing a lot of boys and girls come down to the ford, and the boys take off their shoes and stockings, and the girls roll up their dresses, and so pass over.

The squatters are people many of whom have been there for generations; they are an idle set generally, the greater part are woodmen; they will take a bit of wood and go out to cut it, with their wives and families to help. This takes children away from school to a certain extent, as also does the apple-picking, but they come back again. The system of wood-cutting is that a landlord sells a bit of wood ready for cutting and the purchaser sells it again, the pit wood to one man, the bark to another, the cord wood to a third, and so on. It is all coppice, which pays better than timber, and is cut about every 14 years. The reason there is so much wood is that there is so much hilly and rocky soil; the land there is good, and if Colonel Rooke finds a bit level enough it is worth while to grub up the wood and cultivate it. He has three farms; the only three large farms in the parish, but they are all grass and employ little labour; no women and children working for the farmers except to pick apples.

35. Cottage at Llandogo.—Diary, November 5, 1869.

Slated, and built of red sandstone found on the spot, and exceptionally good and roomy. "Nearly all "the cottages in the parish are freeholds; but most of "them are in reality mortgaged. The people will come "and ask for a loan upon them."

Parish of Dixton.

Population, 753.

Cultivation mixed, with a good deal of woodland.

36. *Captain James Davies*, the Garth.—"Boys are "seldom employed; never before the age of 12, and "then generally during the sowing times to keep off "birds from the new sown seed. I think boys should "not be permitted to go to farmhouse work before "12 years old." No girls employed.

Women are "employed very little. Farmers com-"plain that the women will not work on the land." I do not think "restriction is required" in this neighbourhood; the custom of employing women is gradually dying away. Young women seldom or never work in the fields now; there may be exceptions in the hay harvest.

"There are two National schools connected with the Church, which are not taken as much advantage of as might be; but I should attribute that to the carelessness of the parents as to the education of their children more than to early labour."

The cottages are fair, number being sufficient; "most "have good gardens, and where there are no gardens "there are allotments of land for cottages."

Chepstow Union.

37. Meeting of the Board of Guardians at Chepstow, October 23, 1869. W. F. Seys, Esq., in the chair.

1. In this district boys are employed from the age of 10 or 12 years, few under 12, and that only in crow-keeping. Small boys are employed also apple-picking for a few weeks or a month with their mother. By small boys are intended boys between the ages of 12 and 15. Their work is light, and only from 8 in the morning till 4 or 5 in the evening. There is little other work for small boys besides apple-picking and crow-keeping. It is a purely agricultural district, with the exception of a factory in Chepstow, and boys not employed in agriculture do not work at all; about 60 in Chepstow, perhaps, are employed in this factory work. The very largest farms do not employ more than two boys, and those between the ages of 12 and 15.

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2. As a rule girls are not employed; they are not employed at all under 15; sometimes after that age one or two will take women's work, such as picking swedes.

3. Almost the only women's work besides hay-making consists in topping and tailing swedes and turnips; but women's work is going out very much now; they are above it; so farmers are often obliged to employ men to do work that was formerly done by women, and pay a great deal more for it. Women are got for small jobs about a farm, as go out apple-picking, &c. There is not one on an average employed regularly in any farm.

4. Nearly all the employed live on the farm, the women certainly; but so few are employed that it is hardly to be remarked.

5. Women and children work, as a rule, from 8 to 5 or 6; in haymaking of course they work longer in the evening. An interval is allowed for dinner at 1, and also at 11 for what is called "bake" locally, a light luncheon of bread, &c.

6. There is no need to restrict the labour of women.

7. Few parishes are without a school, and all that are so circumstanced are connected with other parishes. It is a district of small parishes. Children generally take proper advantage.

8. The question on cottages is a very wide one. The meeting generally seemed to consider that their cottages are above the average. Some however are very bad, but not those in farmers' or landlords' hands; it is those inhabited by squatters and small freeholders, and of course one cannot interfere with them for living in what they like; in these waste lands some of the cottages are mere hovels. The worst are at *Shire Newton*. At *Tottenham* there are one or two families who will admit no one into their cottages, not even the clergyman. The chairman mentioned a case of a man living in an old saw pit covered over. At *Llanvihayel*, though many squatters, their cottages are good; it is peculiarly circumstanced, for most of the squatters have little bits of land attached. There was an Enclosure Act about 30 years ago, and now all the moors are enclosed, so the squatters are going out.

There is not much overcrowding as a rule; at Avington there is, but that is owing to a mill having been lately opened.

9. Most of the cottages have gardens; one in ten perhaps without. It is quite the general character to have a garden.

Many parishes have a long way to fetch water, especially Newchurch and Llanvihangel. Upon the hills there is no running water, and deep digging is required for wells.

Wages are 10*s.* to 15*s.*; the former in the purely agricultural parish, the latter near mines; average value in hard cash, 12*s.* It is mostly paid in money, sometimes however 10*s.* and cider; and there are other privileges, regulated by local circumstances, such as coal and potato ground. No grist corn given. It is a cider county.

Women average 10*d.* a day. One gentleman said he never gives less than 1*s*; one gives 10*d.* in winter, and 1*s.* in summer; another 1*s.* all the year round and drink.

The regular wage for a crow boy is 2*s.* 6*d.*; some begin with 6*d.* a day; average boys' wages 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly to 6*s.*

The Duke of Beaufort and Lord Tredegar are the principal proprietors in the Union.

It is an agricultural district. Average size of farms 200 to 300 acres; they range from 40 acres up to 600 (a very few). The Grange farm is 557 acres. Cultivation half and half, mixed. About Chepstow plough prevails; further inland about half and half, pasture naturally prevailing where there are moors.

38. *Mr. Evans*, clerk of the Union.—Thinks little to be inquired into in this neighbourhood. When you get up to Shire Newton and Llangwym will find poorer parishes, for there are many squatters on the hills, people living on a small holding, and some cottages very bad, paying perhaps only 1*s.* a year to the Duke of Beaufort. We are fortunate in clergymen, and the agricultural parishes are well looked after; but in Chepstow, which is a large parish, it is harder to manage. People do not care about schooling; recollect when himself on the school committee, it used to be begging and praying people to send their children to school. They do not send them to work, but let them play about doing nothing. The town is dependent on agriculture; men live in it and go out to work, but few women and boys. The wages in the district are good, owing to the nearness of the mines. The eastern part of the county is agricultural, and thinly inhabited, but up towards Pontypool there is a very crowded population, but better paid, and living in better houses, which are provided by the proprietors of the iron and coal works. The squatter is a great evil, but the holdings belong to the people, and no one can interfere. The principal proprietors are Mr. Lewis and the Duke of Beaufort; towards Magor Lord Tredegar comes in.

Monmouthshire.

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PARISH OF CALDICOT.

Population, 569 - Acreage, 1,800.

Cultivation mixed, arable preponderating.

39. *Rev. E. Turberville Williams*, vicar.—Has a farm of his own, on which he employs four men, a woman, and a boy; but would not say that the labour of either was general, not above six women in regular work, and those that do work are importations from Wiltshire and Berkshire, where it is very common. All the women are married. Women do little work beyond harvesting. There are about a dozen boys employed between the ages of 12 and 15; they come to school very well up to that age; it is Mr. Williams' own school, not under Government, so he can insist on the boys coming regularly, and they come back pretty well after keeping birds or apple-picking for a short time. There is no night school; has not found it answer. About eight came; but the fact was that most already knew what was to be picked up at a night school, at which only the three R.'s are taught. All women who work are a very rough lot. Field labour always seems to be demoralizing, perhaps from their seeing so much of what goes on among the beasts. Cottages, as a rule, are fair, consisting generally of one good room downstairs and a back kitchen, generally, also, a small lean-to outhouse; above is a bedroom and an outer room at the head of the stairs; but some are entirely devoid of privy accommodation. Rent high; from 5*l.* 10*s.* to 9*l.* Unfortunately the parish is in the hands of very small proprietors, one a tradesman, another a farmer, near Chepstow, people who have bought up cottage property as a speculation and ask a high rent, and do no repairs. There is not much overcrowding with members of the family, but there have been some wire works lately set up, and a good many men and boys, some from Tintern, some from Stafford, lodge here; the rest are very crowded, living in large numbers in hastily run up brick cottages. There are not a dozen children in the whole parish who do not attend school; such as do not is owing to the bad management of the parents, who spend the money on drink. Most of those who live on the outskirts go to school in adjoining parishes.

Cottage consists of,—
Living room.
Back-kitchen, generally also a small outhouse.
Bed-room.
And outer room at the head of staircase.

On school books,—

Boys - - -	70
Girls - - -	32
	112

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40. Cottages at Caldicot.

1. *James Lewis.*—Held under Rev. W. Williams. Consists of one good-sized kitchen, back kitchen, and lean-to behind. Pigsty and privy detached. Stone floors. Upstairs two bedrooms, the staircase opening into the first. Part of the roof sloping. The old man and his wife and a son live in it. The old man earns 10*s.* a week. The son is a carter and earns 12*s.* There is half an acre of garden and orchard behind. Rent, 9*l.* A very favourable specimen.

2. *John Richards.*—Old, very tumble-down cottage. Kitchen and back kitchen below. Rough stone floors. Steep staircase, opening into the big bedroom. A second small bedroom beyond. In the big bedroom runs up the chimney from below. The roof is open slates, whitewashed, which makes the room very hot in summer. It slopes very nearly down to the floor. Rent, 6*l.* Have to do all repairs themselves.

3. *William Jenkins.*—Self and wife and two children live in a two-roomed cottage. Children quite small. Bedroom above the sitting room. Pay 6*l.* 10*s.* Husband goes away to Cardiff, where he gets better wages. Good garden.

4. *Abraham Cook.*—Cottage next to the above. Garden behind, four steps above the level of the cottage floor, so that when it rained the water ran in. There is a drain made now through underneath into the road. Rough small stone floor. Two-roomed cottage, one above, one below. In it live self and wife, and five children, all under 13, the two eldest boys. Rent, 6*l.* There are only the two rooms. No outhouse. Had himself to build a pigsty and privy when he came.

41. *Caroline Cook* (Caldicot), wife of Abraham Cook.—Works out in the fields; glad to do it sometimes because so many children, and want something to put on them. Eldest boy 13; he has just begun to work a little, but husband only gets 10*s.* a week. Always goes out in harvest and at other times when a woman wanted to do jobs about the farms among the swedes, &c. Very often goes out every day for a week together. Works as much as any woman in the parish. Second boy is left in charge of the little children, and they have to do as they can while the mother is out. He is a capital nurse. Get 1*s.* a day for working out. Like it.

PARISHES OF CAERWENT AND LLANVAIR DISCOED.

Population, 420 - Acreage, 1,962.

Chiefly arable.

42. *Rev. Macdonald Steel,* vicar.—

Employed in agriculture in the parish,—

Males.			Females.		
			Over 18.		
Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Total Males.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total Females.
6	7	13	10	1	11

Really very few boys employed, and what there are seldom before 14. Some go at about 10 years old to keep birds; few younger; it is necessary, or every seed would be taken out of the ground. Also go at potato setting and picking, but they come back again when it is over. Has to complain more of the way that women's labour affects the attendance of the girls; the eldest girl being kept at home to mind the younger ones interferes materially with their regularity. As a rule there are one or two women employed on every farm, topping swedes, couching, *i.e.*, weeding grass, &c., continual work but not hard. There are hardly any girls employed. Perhaps one sometimes will go out with her father, if he is a shepherd, to work among the swedes, but that is quite the exception. They all go away to service at about 13 or 14, in the farms or in the towns.

"In spring the work is clearing the land of weeds; in summer, harvesting; in autumn and winter, raising and clearing root crops."

"The children of this parish are not prevented "attending school by employment in farm work or in "other labour," or by distance. "The charge for each "child being only 1*d.* per week the cost need be no "hindrance to school attendance."

The cottages are built of stone with slate or tile or thatched roof, average size, ventilation good generally, drainage fair. Accommodation defective in number of bedrooms, in some cases there being only one. Plenty of water. Gardens very tolerable. Cottages belong to the landowner. Rent about 4*l.* 10*s.* There is a good deal of crowding in the cottages. The bedroom accommodation bad. In one instance a father, mother, girl of 12, and boy of 13 sleep in the same room. Fortunately all the girls going away so early they are not at home long enough for any bad results to come from this.

The parish of Llanvair Discoed is attached to this. It is very small; one farm only, and the children come to Caerwent to school. There is a small piece of lately enclosed hill, on which are some few "cots," *i.e.*, squatters' homes. Wages 10*s.*, and sometimes a cottage, and two quarts of cider. No perquisites.

43. *Mr. Valentine Parsons,* occupier.—Boys are employed from 12 to 16 years of age. The attendance at school is not as good as it should be. "Early "labour does not prevent their attendance, but the "carelessness of the parents." Very few women work out, and they principally at harvest. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Cottages far from being good." All have gardens but some are small.

44. *Mr. Matthew Langley,* occupier, Llanvair Discoed.—It is almost impossible to get a boy now to go and keep crows. Keeps two ploughmen and their sons, but has not a small boy on the farm. Thinks the reason is after they leave school they get idling about nutting, which they are very fond of. They can make a good deal by it. One man gave 2*s.* a day. This season has been a particularly good one, and most of the boys were away at it.

There is the same difficulty in getting women. Formerly they used to come out and pick swedes, but now they stay at home. Attributes it to the improvement in wages and fall in the price of wheat. For though wages have only risen from 9*s.* to 10*s.* and 11*s.*, wheat has fallen from 10*s.* a bushel to 5*s.* 9*d.*, and they live mainly on bread. Besides this they get cider. Gives one man 10*s.*, the rest 9*s.* Employs six men, four out, and two living in the house. Potatoes too are much better than they used to be, and they live a good deal on that. Puts the rise of wages on the mines being near. The people are altogether far more independent than they used to be. Described a row they made in his house the other day.

There is only one squatter in the village, and wish we could get rid of him. His cottage is all tumbling down, and he half starves his family. They are too lazy to work. His brother did come to work at weeding in the summer, but soon gave it up.

Had a cottage in the village, but it was burnt down, and now his only one is one on the hill, but it is too far off and no one will take it, though he only asks 2*l.* a year. One of his men lives in St. Bride's, the next parish.

Can get a cottage on the hill with two acres for 2*l.* 10*s.*

Holds of Colonel Tynte. Squire Herrick has most property near about here. Duke of Beaufort comes into the north. All non-resident.

Very high rates, 3*s.* 6*d.* People in the workhouse too well off. Was there the other day, and saw the clean and tidy arrangements. When he came to live here, the water was pouring into the parlour. That never happens to the paupers.

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PARISH OF SHIRENEWTON.

Population, 886 - Acreage, 3,350.

Cultivation, arable.

45. *Rev. C. R. Hall*, rector.—Women, young persons, and children are employed in ordinary farm work or hoeing thistles, cutting turnips, and picking up potatoes and apples; but there is very little demand for this kind of labour. Generally speaking boys are removed too early from school to keep off birds from corn and pick potatoes and fruit, and I consider 8 full early, if legislation is likely to take place in the matter. In women's labour, "as far as my observation goes, there is no necessity for restriction or prohibition." But boys go as young as 8 to keep crows, and do not come back much after; they get apple-picking, potato setting and picking, and when they get a little older holding horses. Have two schools, kept by mistresses, both under Government. Would recommend the half-day system, the morning for school.

When parents are interested in the education of their children, distance presents very trifling obstacles, and *vice versâ*. The payments are very small, only 1*d.* or 2*d.* each per week, according to the class they are in.

Cottages contain commonly,—
1 sitting room,
1 back kitchen,
2 bedrooms.

Rent with garden, if good, from 4*l.* to 5*l.* per annum.

Many are in the hands of the farmers, but a great number are occupied by squatters, of whom there are many in this parish, and others occupy cots and land they have reclaimed either free or at a rent of about 8*s.* per acre, with the house or cot upon it. Water generally to be carried, but it is very good and plentiful.

"The cottages are often crowded with lodgers, which leads to much evil;" it was much worse formerly, but the new valuation system will, I think, in a measure meet that evil. The cottages were formerly pulled down in the neighbouring close parishes, and the people flocked into Shirenewton; it is getting better now.

PARISH OF NEWCHURCH.

46. *Rev. Mr. Price*, Newchurch.—His is the only school in the parish, and supplies schooling too for children out of about six parishes near, for many of the smaller parishes have no school, and of course in some of them there are many children growing up quite uneducated. Could not, however, mention one parish in this immediate neighbourhood remarkable for it. Newchurch is a long straggling parish, but narrow, nearly 11 miles long.

State of morality pretty good. Some come to be married in family way, and some few illegitimate, but not many. A good deal of keeping company. A well known characteristic of this county, they go to bed first and marry after. Has married others for nothing to induce them to be married, but they see no harm in it. Don't seem to care much if the child comes first.

47. *David Cornfield*, schoolmaster.—Children taken as early as 7 to work in the field; generally begin at the the crow-keeping a few weeks in the spring, also for nutting, potato-setting, and apple-picking, and leasing; they all come back again. Out of 34 boys, nearly one-half; nearly as many girls as boys, and as young. Leave the school 9 to 11, and get regular work, if they can, generally farmhouse work. Elder children much kept at home to look after younger while mother is out; interferes with work much. School not under Government; rural dean comes. Women work out a good deal; every now and then a job.

A good many children kept away from school because of the penny. Have known them when the Monday is very wet kept away from school all week for sake of the penny. Some close to the school who neither work nor go to school. Indifference on part of parents a great cause. Like to make a convenience of the school. If there is an infant will send him with other boy, though there is no infant school. Oldest boy 11; girls up to 14; have had adults in the winter quarter; had them 18 years old, and walking three miles. Sunday school, but no opposition school. Don't seem to appreciate evening school. Girls go to service, working both in farms and towns; some few stay to work. Those who work out bear a good character, with the exception of here and there one. Could not count up a dozen. Of the women three parts out of four work out more or less. With few exceptions as good characters and habits as other women. No overcrowding.

48. *Mr. Edward Woodruffe*, occupier.—Farms near upon 400 acres, of which if you leave out the rough land on the hill the larger half is arable; had 65 acres in roots last year. Employs in all eight men, of whom three are in the house, and are employed by the year, carter, under-carter, and groom, the groom being a big boy. Of the five outside has cottages to give three of them, and allows cottage in addition to 10*s.* wages. The least he gives is 10*s.* and two quarts of cider. He thinks giving cider a good plan; it prevents his men going to the public-house, whereas the mechanics go off every Saturday, and spend about half their wages. Gave corn at one time, but that was when it had risen to 8*s.* or 9*s.*; and one of his men with a large family came and said he could not afford to buy flour. Said that he would give them what flour they needed for home consumption as long as they wished at 6*s.* a bushel, and they went on till price fell below that. They all bake at home. The bread is better and more satisfying than what they buy. Most of them eat meat at least once a week.

Employs in harvest more women than anyone else near; sometimes has 20 out. The system on which he goes is to give them as wages the leasing of the field afterwards, and they are all very happy to come out. It is a parish peculiarly circumstanced—a great many of these are the wives and daughters of the Duke's cotters. The Duke's cotters are at one time of the year woodmen, and at other times when he requires extra hands are very glad to come and work. Some of them have as much as two or three acres, and as a rule Mr. Woodruffe will not employ a man who has such a holding of his own. He employs one, however, who is a very good hand, and perhaps lets him off a day or two now and then to get in his potatoes; at present has lent him a pair of horses to plough up his little bit of land. Most of them grow wheat and potatoes. It is only for harvest, however, that Mr. W. employs strange women. In everything else he gives the preference to his labourers' wives, and they are always ready to come out when there is extra work to be done, unless there is a child coming or just come. Many of them with large families will come out in the summer, leaving an elder child in charge of the children. They work among the turnips at 6*s.* an acre; sometimes they make as much as 9*s.* a week. We have no wheat hoeing in this county; know only one farmer who hoes it, and he comes out of Gloucestershire. The youngest boy in Mr. Woodruffe's employ is the groom; employs, however, in necessary times a small boy to scare birds. Has two employed at present, of whom the youngest is 11 years of age. A boy younger than that is of little real use. This little boy will sometimes do another job, such as leading a horse, but is not regularly employed.

Reckon the people here very well off; cottages comfortable and wages high. Have been high for some time; do not remember their rising of late years.

PARISH OF LLANGWYM.

Population, 385.

49. *Rev. W. Price*, vicar.—Rather a peculiar parish, two joined together, Llangwyn, Iscba, and Llangwym Ucha, and the two churches are close together. Though the population is nearly 400 there is no school, and Mr. Price during the 10 years he has

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been here has been engaged in collecting money for it; has now the plans and is going to begin. There is a small farm in the hands of the Charity Commissioners, which he has got applied to the purpose, and when built the rent will go to provide a master for the school. Some of the outlying cottagers send their children to other parishes, some 10 or 12 go to Llansoy, the rest of them go to no school at all, except one or two dame schools, which are now and then established for a time and then die out. But all the people can read more or less; have picked up that, though they cannot write. They seem much to appreciate the want of a school. At one time had a Sunday school, to which 40 children came, but had to give it up; no time with three services every Sunday. Does not think that the people are at all a worse set than in the neighbouring parishes owing to want of education. The cottages for the most part are fair, many of the old stamp, with thatch, but roomy and with sufficient accommodation; none with only one bedroom. About 30 in the place, mostly scattered. The greater part of them are what are called duke's cotters, *i.e.*, held at a nominal rent from the Duke of Beaufort, a cottage and a few acres. Many of them are woodmen, *i.e.*, cut coppice on the hills; some few are labourers, but as a rule it is a parish in which few labourers are wanted. Most of the farms are grass, and few hands are wanted, the farmer's family being generally sufficient, and what labourers are employed living in the house. Most of it belongs to the Duke of Beaufort.

Does not think that because there is no school boys go earlier to work than in parishes where there is one. There is really little work for boys to do.

PARISH OF LLANVIHANGEL TORYMYNYDD.

Population, 175 - Acreage, 1,031.

50. *Rev. John Price*, rector.—"The cultivation of this parish is mixed, rather more arable, pastoral rather less; with the exception of the hill district more adapted for growing wheat than any other corn; beans seldom tried; it is a heavy clay soil.

"I do not know a boy under the age of 13 regularly employed; they are often sent on messages. Above the age of 13 years there are four or five, but they are hired servants from 1st of May to 1st of May, living in the farmer's house, and fed by him; wages of course in accordance with age and capabilities. We have nothing whatever to complain of, no necessity for restriction as to boys.

"Girls are never employed in outdoor work, except "occasionally in milking. Women in harvesting, apple-"picking, and root drawing." No necessity for restrictions. "We have no school in the parish, but there "is one in the parish of Llanishen, where all our "children are required to attend, and do attend.

"Our cottages, as to their condition, are good, and may be said to be more cottage farms than cottages. Few cottages upon the farms; our cottagers are generally squatters. They have all of them good gardens annexed to them, many of them in addition one, two, three, or four acres of land annexed, for which they pay only a nominal rent to the lord of the manor, the Duke of Beaufort."

Very small parish, but also has Kilgwrwg adjoining; nothing to complain of in the way of women or children's labour; the people generally are well off; farmers go down to Pontypool, where they always have an abundant market. The poor people are chiefly cotters, who have their two or three acres, and pay a nominal rent, which makes them very independent. He has found a man working for himself, say at a very critical time that he must go off to look after his own holding. Their cottages as a rule are good. They are mostly agricultural labourers, but at the parish of Kilgwrwg which adjoins, and is high up on the hill, they are mostly woodmen cutting coppice to sell all round. The population there has diminished of late years owing to emigration, and there are not above 80.

What is most to be complained of is the bad water supply, especially on the hills, the people having to go sometimes half a mile, and that down hill, to fetch water.

PARISH OF ST. ARVANS.

Population, 391 - Acreage, 2,711.

Cultivation mixed and woodland.

51. *Mr. Daniel Baker*, Crossway Green, occupier.—"Boys begin work at 12 to 16 at seed time and "harvest mostly." As to restricting their labour "much "will depend on the size and constitution of the boy; "some boys are more fit at 10 than others at 12 years "of age to begin work." As to women "I think "out-door employment conducive to health and "beneficial to the parents when under their control. "Not many" work out.

(The worst thing done by the women of Chepstow is the carrying wood; they are allowed to pick it up after the woods are cleared for their own use, and they carry it on their heads into the town.

In point of morality Chepstow is by no means improved by the railway coming in: the navvies did harm that has never been undone. There is little other employment for the townspeople who have not business there except agricultural labour; some of Mr. Baker's own labourers come out from Chepstow (one mile). Mr. Baker gives as wages nearly 12*s.* a week; wages high because so near a town. Some of his people have cottages of him, others come out from Chepstow.

He has two farms, one in the Newport Union, where he has a larger interest than he has here. Chepstow is not a good market. Newport seems very much to have taken all that.)

52. *Mr. George Smedley*, Woodlands, St. Arvans.—Farms 80 acres of his own and 11 glebe. Little boys will run after him and ask him for employment; has one of 12 years of age now out keeping crows. The first thing they do when keeping birds is to light a fire; have had two serious fires; lost once 200*l.* through such carelessness. If a boy has been brought up roughly it does not injure him to keep the crows off the corn for a few weeks in the spring or autumn at the age of 10 years.

No girls between 13 and 18 work out; knows of one case of a girl over 18 who has fits, she goes out to work in summer. All go to service, mostly in farms; they prefer farms, because they get more food in a farm than in a town. None go out to keep crows unless they run out with their brothers for their own pleasure. No restriction is required, as they readily get employment as domestic servants, if their character is good.

Nearly all the women except those who make dresses are glad to get out of door work; they rake and turn hay, pull up swedes, turnips, carrots, and mangolds. Do not go in bad weather. They pull swedes by the acre, and it is wonderful how much they do when employed at piecework. Make about 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day. Go out 8 to 12, 2 to 6.

Early work is no great interruption to the school; perhaps no more than is really good for them. The younger boys come to school here, perhaps 50 of them; the elder, about 14 in number, between the ages of 13 and 15, go to the National school in Chepstow.

The cottages are in good order and sufficient for the labour required. During the 20 years I have been here, I have known no immorality that could be traced to overcrowding in cottages.

PARISH OF TINTERN.

Population, 355.

53. *Mr. Morrell*, manufacturer.—A farm servant gets 6*s.* a week, living in the house; an out-door workman 10*s.* to 12*s.* Give our bailiff 12*s.* and a cottage; he is the only man we employ; all we farm is grass land; mow about half of it for the horses, and to do that get other hands.

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Women are paid in this parish 10*d.* and cider in hay-making and apple-picking; children come too and pick apples. There is a good school, and most of the children come pretty well. Above here on White Hill live a lot of cotters, not such a good class; they do not work for the farmers: they are generally wood-cutters, and help themselves in the Duke's woods; they always keep a donkey, and poultry for market.

NEWPORT UNION.

54. Meeting of the Board of Guardians, Saturday, November 13; from the *Herefordshire Times*, November 20, 1869; the Right Hon. Lord Tredegar in the chair, and present, O. Morgan, Esq., M.P.; Messrs. J. Latch, B. Thomas, W. Jones, J. W. Bebell, R. Graham, G. Fothergill, G. Clarke, J. James, R. E. Rees, Langley, and Rev. J. Davis.

The clerk said that Mr. Boyle, one of the assistant commissioners, had waited upon him respecting the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture, on which he was engaged, and was now in attendance, being desirous of obtaining such information in reference to the same as the Guardians could afford him.

Mr. Boyle after some preliminary observations stated that in the first place he wished to know the age at which children were usually employed in farm labour, and the nature of such employment.

Mr. Rees Rees said he did not know that they employed them at all. Occasionally young boys were employed as grooms, but they never hardly saw the children. Sometimes, it was true, they were employed to scare the crows off the ground for a week or two, and this he thought was of some advantage to the children, as out-door exercise tended to sharpen their appetites, and it was generally considered conducive to their health. In the harvest time they went gleaning with their mothers, and sometimes little girls acted as nurses. That, so far as he knew, was the extent of the employment of children in the district.

Mr. W. Jones concurred with Mr. Rees, and said boys were employed to scare away the crows, but when so employed they ate twice as much as a grown-up person.

Mr. O. Morgan, M.P., said if the commissioner wished to see children well employed in the district, he had better go over to their schools at Caerleon. He was glad to say that there the children were employed, and he should be pleased if Mr. Boyle would pay a visit to the schools and see them.

Mr. B. Thomas did not think the inquiry was applicable to this county.

Mr. Graham, with regard to gleaning, the children are not employed by the farmers for that purpose. It was voluntary on their part.

Mr. Rees.—I meant that was all I saw them do.

Mr. Jones.—Yes, just so; that is about the extent of their work.

Mr. Graham.—In the National and other schools the children get holidays in the harvest time for the purpose of going out gleaning.

Mr. Boyle.—Do not the children of the smaller farmers work?

Mr. Rees.—No; I don't consider they do.

Mr. Boyle.—Are they employed on the farms on the hills?

Mr. James said in his district the question would not apply. He knew that they could not get either boys, girls, or women to work on the farms, consequently they had to pay high wages to men to do work that ought to be done by women. The boys were generally taken away to the collieries to work, and the wages which men earned there regulated to a great extent the wages which they had to pay for farm labour.

Mr. Boyle.—Do not children work in the low parts of the country?

Mr. James said he had a farm on the moors, and so had Mr. Rees, and what they had already stated applied to the low part of the district as well as to the hills.

Mr. Boyle.—The next question is as to the means of education, and the extent to which they avail themselves of it.

Mr. Morgan, M.P., said there were many schools in the several parishes to which the children were sent.

The Rev. J. Davies, said in his parish most of the children were sent to school, and the children generally were pretty well educated.

Mr. Jones.—And I can speak the same of my parish.

Mr. Latch said that in most of their districts there were plenty of schools, and nearly every child was sent to school.

Mr. Rees said there were schools in which the children were educated and clothed.

Mr. Morgan, M.P., said there were some very good schools at Marshfield, Bassalleg, and other places in the district. In some places there was a practical difficulty in the way, as some of the parishes were very extended, and if a child lived two or three miles from the school it took him half the day to go there and back again. For instance, if they took the parishes of Mynyddislwyn, Risca, and Bedwellty, there were remote districts which would take a child half a day to get to school, and the other half to return.

Mr. Rees said Mynyddislwyn embraced an area of 16,000 acres, but he believed there were four or five schools in the parish.

Mr. Boyle.—Are there many children growing up not educated at all?

The noble Chairman did not believe there were.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you think that most of the children go to school.

The noble Chairman.—I believe that most of them do.

Mr. Rees.—Yes; and there are numerous Sunday schools, and you would be astonished how the children are taught there, and the answers they give to the questions put to them.

Mr. Graham said in his district there were abundance of schools. There was also a good blue coat school, and there was an excellent school at Christchurch.

Mr. Boyle.—But in harvest times do not the girls work?

Mr. Rees.—Not at all; young girls are too gay now-a-days to work on a farm.

Mr. Boyle.—They are not regularly employed there?

Mr. Thomas.—We cannot get them.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they not work in the turnip fields, hoeing swedes?

Mr. Rees.—Not with us.

A Guardian.—They can go and steal them (laughter).

Mr. Morgan, M.P.—The only way they employ themselves in turnip fields is to take them up and carry them to Newport to sell.

The noble Chairman said the custom in this country was different from any other—take Wiltshire for instance. There the women were regularly employed in hoeing turnips, but he never saw such a thing done in this county.

Mr. Boyle.—Do the girls go to service?

Mr. Rees.—No, not many; they would rather be dressmakers or milliners.

Mr. B. Thomas.—The tide of emigration is very great from this county.

Mr. Boyle.—The next question is, what is the state of the dwellings of the farm labourers?

The noble Chairman said some years ago the cottages of the labourers were not so good as they should have been; but they had been very much improved of late years.

Mr. Boyle.—How many bedrooms have they?

The noble Chairman.—Two in most of them, and some have three.

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Mr. Rees.—I know of none in my district with only one bedroom. In many cases the cottages belong to the occupants, Lord Tredegar having kindly given them the land to build on.

Mr. Boyle said on the other side of the county there were a number of squatters.

Mr. Rees said there was in the neighbourhood of Shire Newton, but it was very different here.

The noble Chairman said in most cases the cottages had garden ground, and the occupants took great pride in cultivating the same.

Mr. Boyle.—The last question is as to the rate of wages. What is about the average rate?

Mr. R. E. Rees.—The average rate of wages is 15*s.* per week. We can fairly put it from 12*s.* to 15*s.*

Mr. Latch.—From 10*s.* to 14*s.* Men will work for 2*s.* a day.

Mr. Rees.—Many get 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Some may get 2*s.* a day.

M. B. Thomas.—Do you know of any getting 10*s.* a week?

Mr. Rees.—No, not any.

Mr. O. Morgan.—No able-bodied man would work for such wages. An infirm man might do so.

Mr. James.—In my parish we have to pay 18*s.* to 1*l.*, as agriculturists expect to get paid the same as colliers and miners. The one governs the other, and the men go where they can be the best paid.

Mr. Langley said he was paying his men at Henllys 15*s.* a week.

Mr. Boyle.—And do you give them cider?

Mr. Langley.—No, beer occasionally; but extra wages are given in lieu of drink.

Mr. B. Thomas said it was not the same here as it was in Somersetshire, as here they got more wages and less drink.

The Clerk said in 1861 he made a return to Mr. Graves, the Government Inspector, as to the rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers. It was dated February 8th, and he found that he stated the average then to be from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week for men, 6*s.* for women, and 4*s.* for children. He had also made a similar return in which he had consulted his friend Mr. Rees, and was about to forward the reply to Mr. Graves.

Mr. Boyle asked if any labourers lived on the farms.

Mr. Jones said not so many as formerly, but he liked to have them in the house, so that they might be close to their work.

This brought the inquiry to a close, and Mr. Boyle thanked the Guardians for the information they had given him.

55. (Lord Tredegar has all his cottages in hand. Finds it better for the labourer, as he only charges 3*l.*, whereas the farmer charges more; but if there is a cottage to let on a farm he always asks the farmer who he would like to have there. A cottage must pay six per cent. to pay the owner; all Lord Tredegar's have two or three bedrooms; generally builds them in twos and threes.)

56. *Mr. Evans*, clerk to the Union.—The law of settlement has interfered much with the increase of cottage accommodation. Two parishes of this Union, Lanwern and Wilcrick, were at one time utterly denuded of cottages, in order to send the people into the villages. Matters are, however, being mended now. At Lanwern the population consists of the rector's house and one cottage. This district between Newport and Magor consists of very rich land, that lets at 3*l.* an acre; the population is thin, as the farms are chiefly grass, and employ few hands.

57. — *Lyne, Esq.*, agent to A. Herbert, Esq., of Llanarth.—The employment of women is going out very much now, even for harvesting. For haymaking the men do not much like having them out with them now, for they make a noise. This year Mr. Lyne, who farms himself about Newport, had no women out at all. Perhaps the principal reason they do not go out is the rise of wages. Mr. Lyne himself gives 15*s.* a week, but he is near a town. At Llanarth, however, the wages are 12*s.*, out of which the men have to pay for a cottage. There has been a great diminution in population, and but for the introduction of machinery it would have been impossible for the farmers to get on. They do not only go to the mines, but they emigrate a good deal. A man goes to America and writes back saying he makes his two dollars a day, never mentioning how expensive all necessaries are, and the man left behind thinks himself as good as the man gone, and does not see why he is not to make the same. There is a great move too among the people with the spread of education; they learn of places where they would be better off, and do not see why they are to be tied down to being agricultural labourers all their lives. The boys do not work near so much either; with the move in favour of education they are kept longer at school.

The poorest people are the farmers up on the hills, who have only small holdings of perhaps 50 acres (those who have sheep walks have of course more), and work it with the help of their families; their children grow up with little or no education, and are the only people who have little chance of rising. Some of them live in very bad houses. Labour too is so dear that they positively cannot afford to hire labourers.

There is a great want of cottages over the county generally, and it ends in men walking two or three miles to and from work, and carrying their dinner. Many of them live in the villages. There are no cotters about here. It is very natural they should not wish to improve their cottages, for they find that as long as they live in a mere hovel they are not interfered with, but when they improve they are come down upon for rent.

A landlord cannot make money by his cottages, he must consider them as part of his farm buildings. A good cottage costs 100*l.*, and to make it pay you want a rent of 8*l.* a year; a labourer on 12*s.* a week cannot afford more than 1*s.* 6*d.* for his cottage. At Llanarth few cottages are let with the farms. It is better to let them directly from the landlord. The farmer may get in a man the landlord has reason to object to, and as long as he pays his rent and does his work insist on keeping him; besides, the farmer being a man of less capital, will be less able to repair it, and if he goes out perhaps leaves it in ruins, so that a great outlay is at once demanded. Most landlords like to have their cottages in hand. When a farmer lets a cottage there is no implied stipulation that the labourer's wife works in busy times; some of them, however, do so.

The cultivation about Llanarth is mixed, but the extent under grass is being increased, for the supply of labour is diminishing, and wages rising, and grass requires fewer labourers, and the value of cereals is diminishing.

One great reason of women being less inclined to labour is the facility of getting out-door relief. If they work three days a week they only get from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*, and they can get 2*s.* equally well from the Union without wear and tear of clothes.

Parish of Magor.

Population, 740.

58. *Rev. A. C. Saunders*, vicar.—Wages here are usually 2*s.* a day and drink. No cottage, and cottage rent high, the great misfortune of the place being that the cottages belong to many small proprietors, who do little or nothing for them, and ask a high rent. Wages are paid by the day, and if it is a wet day and no work done no pay is given. Men who live in the farmhouse are however paid by the week. The lower part of this parish is mostly meadow, a good deal of arable in the upper. The parish of Redwick, which is also attached to this, is small, only about 200 people; it is all rich meadow land, and there are no poor, the people being all farmers, and farm labourers living with them. The nearness of the mines keeps up the wages in Magor, and makes the people independent, for

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they and the farmers alike know that good wages are to be had within an hour's railway. Nearly all the people live in the village. Few detached cottages. And there are several small farmhouses also in the village. Mr. Herrick is the chief proprietor. It is the misfortune of this county that so many of the large landed proprietors are not resident. There is a great want of gardens and privies to the cottages. Water supply good. Some cottages have no garden, others a very small bit.

59. *Mrs. Burris*, wife of labourer.—Works out; very glad to work out, must do it; would like not to if she could afford it. After all do not make much by it; children pull about and do a deal of damage; has four children; eldest boy about 12; does a bit of work sometimes. Is a bad boy to go to school. Mr. —— came and carried him there in his arms once. Has to look after the younger ones when mother is out. Thinks out-door work ruins the clothes, and has so few cannot afford to do that. Always works at harvest; works too by pulling swedes and turnips, which is hard work; also potato planting and setting. Usual pay is 1*s.* a day; but among the turnips and swedes work by the acre, and has to work very hard to make 1*s.* at that. Used to work in the farmhouse, but only got 8*d.* a day for that. Husband makes 2*s.* a day, but is not always in work. Made 2*s.* 6*d.* part of the summer as a sawyer.

60. Cottages at Magor.—Diary, October 26, 1869:—

Rev. Mr. Sanders took me to some cottages. First a very good one; one of Mr. Herricks', put in order seven years ago, when the present man and his wife came to live here. Three rooms downstairs, three above. Two lodgers, schoolmaster, and a bedridden old man of 96. Family, man and wife and daughter. Rent 8*l.* 10*s.*, "a good bit of money." A good class of cottage, but above a labourer's. Visited a row of three cottages close to the churchyard; very bad, each consisting of only one room above, one below. The one we were told was the worst was locked up; man and wife out to work. The next was open; a girl about 12 minding a younger child in it. Cottage fairly tidy inside, and room fairly large. Girl told us that she and her father and mother, little brother aged 5, and two little sisters live in it. This was one of the families the schoolmaster mentioned as never coming to school. The worst feature of these cottages is, they have only the door in front, leading a few yards to the road, and this strip is all the garden they have. There is no door or window at the back wall, to which runs up the garden of another cottage. No privy at all. A little further a row of whitewashed, slate-roofed cottages, mostly only one room above, one below. Very low rooms with open rafters; went into two; the first inhabited by a tailor and his wife; the tailor reduced, because he had been ill and could not work. Pays 3*l.* 5*s.*, more than it is worth. A back kitchen, a lean-to, but so many holes in the roof that it is useless for purposes of shelter. A few doors beyond Mrs. Burris lives, husband, wife, and four children; husband drinks, so family very poor; she works out a good deal. Rent 3*l.* 6*s.* All these cottages have a common privy.

61. *Mr. Butterworth*, schoolmaster.—The time of year when boys are taken away to mind crows is in September and October; there is a boy of 10 now away minding crows. In April and May they go to plant potatoes. As a rule they come back; but the schoolmaster generally has to go off to the cottages to see about getting them back. Am going after two or three to-night.

Some of the children in the village never come. There are two cottages close to the school, one, I think, you were in to-day, where the children living never come, except to Sunday school. There are two schools in the village; would say, that as a rule, all attend somewhere.

As a rule boys and girls both stay up to 12 or 13; have one boy in the school, who will be 16 next birthday; there are five boys over 14 and one girl.

There are 71 children on the books including a few infants. 52 children to be examined this time.

Girls do not do out-door work in the parish, but some are kept at home to mind the younger children. The "monthly market" takes place on Thursdays, and that is a bad day for girls' attendance; in summer markets are very frequent, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the girls are kept at home the afternoon before. A good many women do out-door work.

There is no evening school; the children could not come regular.

Parish of Llanvaches.

Population, 235.

62. *Rev. W. J. C. Lindsay*, rector.—Boys leave school at about 10 years of age; cannot say what becomes of them immediately, but soon after they get work at some farm. Farmers want a boy about the farm for light work. Most of the children come to school; but of course, as everywhere, here are some families you cannot get hold of. They do not see the use of it; make excuses, such as no shoes, not properly dressed. There are a good many cots in the parish up on the hill; small cottages held under a nominal rent, 1*s.* a year, of the Duke of Beaufort. As the land improves rent is raised, and the cottage put in order; but meantime some of the cottages are very wretched. The people themselves bear a sufficiently good character.

Parish of Caerleon.

Population, 1,594.

63. *Rev. H. P. Edwards*, vicar.—There are tin and other works here, which employ a good many of the people; consequently there is not much labour for women and children in agriculture. Hardly any women go out except perhaps in harvest. The children are kept at school by the advantage of a very large endowment, which is worth 800*l.* a year, and supports three schools, one for infants, one for girls, and one for boys, besides clothing a good many, and apprenticing the boys. Mentioned the names of two farmers, one a widow, who employ their children a good deal on their farms.

The wages are not so high here as might be expected from its nearness to the mines. Mr. Edwards has to give a man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, but he will work for a farmer for 2*s.* No liquor given. Out of 12*s.* a week he has to pay for a cottage, which comes to quite 2*s.* If he comes to work he is always paid, however wet it is; for there is always work to be done about the farmhouse.

There is a considerable colony of Irish; they are good sort of people, and receive about as high wages as the rest, but are content often to live in very bad cottages. There are a good many Roman Catholics about, who like to get Irish labourers, and the consequence is that many of them go out to work in other parishes 4 or 5 miles distant, which is very bad for them. Some of them get as wages 1*s.* a day and their food, which is calculated at another shilling; but of course it is a bad system for those with families. For a long time they had no school, but one has lately been established with a mistress, and they go now pretty well.

The parish includes also Llangattock Caerleon, which is the only really agricultural part of it; it is small, with about 200 inhabitants. Unfortunately it has no school, and the trustees made a difficulty about admitting the children into the Endowed school in Caerleon. Mr. Edwards got permission at last to admit eight. Most of the rest go to school in the neighbouring parish, Llanhennoch.

The cottages are improving now. Mostly very fair, and few of the old one-storeyed thatched cottages left. As a rule the Irish do not seem to care to live in as good homes as the rest. In one lane off the street there were several families huddled together in a perfect rookery of wretched cottages, and in one of these was

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Monmouthshire.

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a man and his son earning about 1*l.* each, and drinking most of it. They came at last into the hands of a lawyer, who pulled them down and built up two cottages, and most of the people went into Newport. There is not much overcrowding now. There is a great deal of drinking. At the works the wages are paid monthly, and then there is a general drink.

64. —*Llewellyn, Esq.*, Caerleon.—If he wants a man has to give him 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and that seems to be the general price in the parish. Caerleon is rather an increasing place, as people live in it and go into business in Newport.

The farms about here are small, few being as large as 200 acres, and chiefly grass, so that much can be done with men living in the house.

Up in the hills is a very poor class of farmers, who work a good deal of their land with the assistance of their children. Never heard of much difficulty in procuring labour there; for, though the wages are high, a poor farmer can get a labourer to live in his house and receive low wages much more easily than a rich farmer. The former is little removed above the labourer, who lives in the house with him on equal terms.

About Caerleon a farmer finds it pays him best to have three or four men in his house, so as to be up early and late when required about the stock.

65. *Mr. Williams*, schoolmaster.—Only three boys employed, and they in the same family, and that was only nine days, driving horses and scaring crows. The oldest 10, youngest 8. Farmer's own children. Small farmer. Only in the wheat sowing season. Of course farmers strive to do without them as much as possible. Boys stay as late as 14, then are apprenticed.

Everybody liable to be on foundation as soon as can read or write and do simple rules of arithmetic. Have an infant school that prepares. In this school about 80 boys. In one 90 girls. Rest, infants. Mixed. Kept on an average 80 in each for four years.

Girls stay as late as boys. Go to service. If they have a good character from each place get a bounty of 6*l.* Boy gets same for buying tools when his time is up.

Parish of Llanhennoch.

Population, 228 - Acreage, 1,425.

66. *Rees Keene*, occupier, Pencraige.—The cultivation is average. Crops chiefly grown, wheat, barley turnips, and clover. Has in-door servants hired yearly. Ages 14 years and upwards. "I think no restriction necessary." Boys are very useful when 12 and 13 years old. No girls employed. "Not all women." A school provided by landed gentry. They take advantage of it.

Cottages "very good;" quite sufficient; not overcrowded. Have all very fair gardens, besides allotments to a portion of them.

Parish of Tredunnoc.

Population, 164 - Acreage, 1,300.

Cultivation mixed.

67. *Rev. C. T. Salusbury*, rector.—Boys are employed "during harvest and at corn-sowing from the age of "7 years. For regular employment two at 12 years." They ought to be employed "not earlier than 12 years "old, except for occasional work." Bird-scaring is only for a short time, and does not much interfere with schooling. There "is a day school in the adjoining "parish of Llangibby (one and a half miles) of which "the children here take advantage." Women work out very little, except in haymaking. There is only one large farm in the parish, which is purely agricultural. Oddly enough there are very few children in the parish. Only four families with children, but all those four have a good many, one seven children.

"The cottages are poor, but not overcrowded." None have more than two bedrooms. But the girls are got away very early into farm service, some as young as 10, as soon as they can make themselves at all useful in service. "Unmarried labourers are "boarded at farmhouses." All the cottages have more or less gardens attached to them, besides an allotment ground, which allows a piece to nearly every cottage.

Parish of Coedkernew.

Population, 163.

68. *Mr. James*, occupier, Cefn Llogall.—Keeps six farm servants in his house; mostly boys 16 to 20. All unmarried. A married man goes to a cottage. Does not keep them in the house because there is a bad supply of cottages, but to have them nearer their work and earlier. Keeps more in the house than anyone near. Prefers boys at that age. Keeps oxen, and wants them for that. Farm is on the hill, but is a tract of grazing land. Employ four men besides regular labourers. They are married, and all live, except one, on the farm; he lives in the village. Three of the cottages are let with the farm. Mostly arable. Pasture in front of house. Holds under Lord Tredegar.

Gives 10*s.* and a cottage. Only gives drink in summer. The men prefer beer. Don't make much cider, and they like beer better. Never employ women. Don't know of any who employ women between our town (Newport) and Cardiff.

Plough very little beyond Newport by the sea. Best land in the county. A man will have, perhaps, 25 acres, and employ one, two, or three men, and most live in the house. Very thin population. Same down by St. Bride's and Peterstone.

Parish of St. Melan's.

Population, 688 - Acreage, 2,574.

Cultivation mixed.

69. *Rev. J. W. Evans*, vicar.—"Boys are employed on farms in the parish from the age of 10 or 12 years as regular servants, and occasionally, as at seed time, but this to a small extent. The limit for boys' work might be from 10 to 12 years, but in some cases, as in that of a large family, too strict a rule would be a hardship. There is a National school.

"Girls are not so employed." Women are employed "in harvest time, and sometimes in picking up stones in fields intended for hay fields. Stone-picking is usually job work. In harvest the hours vary as the weather serves.

"The supply of cottages is not now very abundant in this parish, which is an increasing one, but probably the want will procure the remedy. Except in cases where extraordinary work, building, &c., has brought an influx of stangers there has been no great overcrowding with attendant evils. Most cottages have gardens. There are no allotments.

Parish of Michaelston-y-Vedw.

Population, 203 - Acreage 1,220.

Cultivation mixed, nearly equal arable and pasture.

70. *Rev. Wm. Jenkins*, vicar:—Boys are employed "from 11 to 13 years of age. The first work boys of 11 do is to keep the rooks from eating the early sown corn in the month of March. Boys are allowed to go out of the school for a month or six weeks for that purpose, and return again to school. Boys of 13 generally live with the farmers in the house; they are hired by the year. Boys of younger age looking after the rooks frequently live in a cottage on the farm with the parents, so they have no great distance to go to work. They should not be employed in any kind of work under 10 years of age. They are of no service to the farmer under 10. They attend the school regularly at that age. There is an endowed school in the parish free to all the children in the parish. All necessary school materials are provided for the children entirely free. Every advantage is taken of the school. When a cottage becomes vacant and a family out of the parish take the cottage they immediately apply to admit their children into the school.

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"There is one class of superior cottages. There is "another class of old cottages, not so good. They "are sufficient for the supply of labour, and many of "them on the farms." No overcrowding. "Every "cottage has a good garden and well cultivated."

Girls and women are not employed on the farms. "The women stay at home and attend to domestic "affairs." Young girls should not be employed in agriculture, they should go to service to learn domestic work. Women might be of service to farmers at harvest time, but in this district they are not employed.

71. *Miss Oden*, schoolmistress.—Sometimes a boy goes to scare birds at 10, 11, or 12. None go much, and most come back to school when it is over. They go picking potatoes and beans.

There are 68 on the books. There are 47 present to-day.

There are more girls than boys; some of the boys go to a man's school, but they have to pay more; this school is free. The oldest boy is nearly 13; he is kept away sometimes, more than any of the others. Girls stay sometimes up to 14.

There is no night school; it is a scattered parish; some children have to come two miles.

71*a*. *Rees Edward Rees*, occupier.—"Boys are seldom employed under 14 years of age; when they are employed it is to keep off birds from feeding on the corn. Girls are never employed at outdoor work." Able-bodied men get 12*s*. to 15*s*. per week. They are paid by the week, wet or dry. We are within three miles of the mines, which raises wages. Give in harvest time three or four quarts of cider, but that is more than most people. Farms 150 acres. Employs four men constantly, of whom one a carter, and the rest generally employed. Labourers here are better off than in most parts; there is no need for women to work. There is a deal of dissent about here; is a dissenter himself; but people are all liberal, and get on well together, even as regards church rates. Considers the farmers and people well off here; holds under Lord Tredegar; average value of land 25*s*. a year, but less than the rent of most proprietors. Has a freehold of his own at Lantarnam, and thinks people well off there as here; there are works in the place.

There are few cottages down in the flat; a good many of the people employed at Peterstone live in these parishes; a distance of two or three miles to come to work.

72. *George W. James*, waggoner.—Waggoner to Mr. Rees Rees. Gets 12*s*. a week, and one deducted because he has a cottage given; also gets food on Sundays.

Wife never works; has a young child, and besides it is not the custom in these parts. Came from Worcestershire; do not think there is much difference in wages between those parts and this. Got two quarts of drink there, but not here; you do not want so much food if you have drink. Boys go out with horses in Worcestershire, but not here, as ploughing is done with two horses, who are driven. Not much for a boy to do here before he is 14 or 15 years of age.

73. *Thomas Mault* (oldish man, general labourer on Mr. Rees' farm).—Has 10*s*. a week, and drink and victuals; generally works in the garden. He hires a cottage, paying 3*l*. a year for it. Wife, four children, and grandchild live in it; only two rooms, and thatched roof; does not belong to Mr. Rees. May as well speak the truth at once. Landlord not very particular about rent, but does no repairs. Children all young; eldest son was drowned at sea, his wife is in service.

74. Cottages at Michaelston.

1. *Mrs. Griffith*.—Cottage, two rooms below, two above, stone and slate; holds direct of Lord Tredegar; 3*l*. Husband dead; eldest boy of 15 is clerk and sexton. Has four other younger children. Gets 6*s*. from the union; two for herself, one for each of the children who cannot work.

2. *William Norris*.—Cottage held of Colonel Tynte 3*l*. a year. Three rooms; kitchen with large old-fashioned open chimney, bedroom opening into it, very small, and with no light, and bedroom upstairs. No children at home at present; sometimes has two. Dilapidated-looking, and the door was below the level of the ground.

3. *Joseph White*.—Nice looking cottage, two windows on each side of door, and two above; whitewash and slate; two rooms below and two above; neat and clean; the staircase opens into the first room. Mrs. W.'s husband works for Lord Tredegar; gets 13*s*. a week, but has to be out on Sunday as well among the stock. Has five children; a big son not at home, except now and then, and two daughters, who seemed to be about 14 and 15. Does not work in the fields herself, there is not a many do about here. Rent 3*l*. 15*s*.

4. *David Howell*.—A thatched cottage that wants a good deal of repair; inhabited by an old man, his son and daughter, and three children. Big kitchen downstairs and the old man's bedroom. Upstairs one other bedroom, a long room extending the whole length of the house; roof sloping to the floor; thatch bare, except for some newspapers put over it. Staircase like a ladder into a loft. Eldest child, a girl aged 8, goes to school; a boy aged 5, another 2½. Pays rent 2*l*. 10*s*. to Lord Tredegar.

5. *William Lewis*.—Neat cottage, all on one floor, but has two sitting rooms and two bedrooms, and generally only self and wife at home, except sometimes when only son comes to see them. Has worked for Lord Tredegar as woodman 33 years. Rent 3*l*. 15*s*. Capital large garden.

75. Cottage on Mr. Rees' farm.

Let with the farm, and lets his waggoner have it at a shilling a week; stone and red tile; high sloping roof; one room above, one below; looked tidy and clean, and seemed nice people in it; only husband and wife and child. The calf-shed adjoins. Mr. Rees says if family increases must turn the loft into another room, and perhaps the calf-shed too. Went upstairs. The roof slopes, but is well ceiled. Garden of nearly 30 perches.

76. *Mr. James* (occupier), Mynyddyslwyn.—Gives 15*s*. a week; obliged to do it, because of the mines, or men all go away, as they are close. Does not find women work, for men are too well off. Fortunately do not require so many men, as there is a great deal of sheep-walk, and most of the rest is dairy. Farms are smaller than below, but people as rich because of the extent of sheep-walk. Farm servants, girls, do the milking, and have two big boys in the house who drive the cows. The 15*s*. is in money; sometimes they take a cheese. Much the case with other farmers of the parish.

Boys do not go with the horses now; driving is done with reins; oxen ploughing has gone out.

Pontypool Union.

77. Meeting of Pontypool Board of Guardians, November 18, 1869; — Lewis, Esq., in the chair. Present, — Ralph, Esq. (Usk); — Morgan, Esq. (Mamilad); Messrs. Dunn (Usk), James (Goytrey), Jenkins (Glascoed), &c.

Boys are never employed under 12 years of age; it is a rare case to see one as young as 10. There are a great number of small farmers in this county who work their children; but boys are not wanted now to drive horses with the plough; it is all pair-horse driving.

The questions do not apply much to the Union; a great part of it being mining, and children are taken as soon as ever they are 12 years of age to work in the mine. Girls are taken into the farmhouse at about 14 in the agricultural districts; and Mr. Evans says they are not much use at that age; they keep fowls, &c., weed the garden, &c.

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There is no parish without a school; and a good many in some Mr. Ralph thought. Around Usk the means of education are very meagre, but where there is a good opportunity small farmers send their children; labourers as a rule do not. The schools are principally little dames' schools, where reading and writing are taught and little more.

In Usk they are well off for schools, and attendance is regular. There is an elementary school under Government, and aided by Roger Edwardes' charity, which only diminishes the Government aid, and the rest is made up by private subscription. There are also dames' schools, and a Roman Catholic school, very good, and soon to be a Church school also.

In Llangibby two good schools; well looked after; none at Llanbaddock; they go to Usk and Llangibby; principal part go. They are more disposed to avail themselves of it than town population was Mr. Dunn's opinion, but not generally echoed. At Goytrey a National school is kept under Government, and there is also a British school.

There are not a dozen children who don't go in the parish, and there is quite a fight for the children which school they are to go to.

Women assist their husbands when they get such a job as swede pulling; they do a bit when land is wanted to be cleared all at once.

You cannot always get women; much of the work about Usk is done by the Irish women there; they come and ask for it. Some are more active than men. Take work for perhaps a week or fortnight. They weed spring-corn and set potatoes, and they are better than men to do such jobs. Useful in harvest. About gentlemen's houses they are got in preference to men to weed. Too few looking out for work; each year fewer.

In mining districts they work with their husbands on the small holdings. Mr. Dunn thinks a girl pretty well educated won't go out. Irish daughters won't go at all; it is only the mothers. Some who work out are quite as good a class as those who do not. Little immorality arises from it.

Less said about dwellings the better, seemed to be the general opinion; dwellings of farmers not good even, much less of labourers.

Many small farms; great deficiency in cottages on farms, and farmers obliged to keep them in houses, and cottages are crowded with lodgers, which leads to immorality.

Mr. Morgan thinks labourers selves much to blame; they will not pay a rent sufficient for the value of a cottage.

They cannot afford it, Mr. Dunn says.

Mr. Morgan says a cottage costs 100*l.*, and you won't find a man give more than 4*l.*, even a man who makes 15*s.* a week.

Mr. Evans says 4*l.* 10*s.* or 5*l.* is the rent at Llangibby, and Mr. Lewis says a good bit of garden is added generally.

Mr. Ralph says you seldom see a cottage with front and back door, and Mr. Morgan says nothing improves habits of labourers like a good cottage. When the Irish first came they were a wretched set, but now they are getting wonderfully civilized. There are very few cottages with two bedrooms; hardly one with three; many with only one.

Mr. Morgan thinks the badness of the labourers, dwellings one of the wretched features of agricultural life.

Mr. Ralph says there are a number of tumble-down cottages, and thinks it a good deal the landlord's fault, who find cottages do not pay and let them fall to pieces. They are consequently driven into Usk, and lodge in the other villages, or have to go into lodgings.

Mr. Evans gives 10*s.* and cottage at Llangibby; they also get a meal now and then, and three parts of their meals in summer. The gentleman from Trevethin, which is a manufacturing parish, gives in kind and all about 14*s.*

Mr. Morgan (Mamilad) gives 12*s.*, cottage free, taxes paid, and potato-ground, and never deducts for loss of time.

Mr. Ralph says a view to take is that some are much better off than others; a waggoner has good fixed wages; a lot are thrown out in bad weather who work by the job.

Mr. Morgan, who is close to the mining district, could not get a good man under what he gives. Considers they get as good as 18*s.* to 1*l.* a week.

Mr. Lewis says there are a large number of casuals employed in harvest and other busy times, who do not work out generally, and Mr. Ralph says they are not as a rule agricultural labourers. Inferior made men, but want 3*s.* a day very often, at least 2*s.* 6*d.*

Boys live in the house generally (Mr. Evans), and begin with 5*l.*, go to 12*l.*, and more sometimes.

Mr. Morgan says the cider and beer very bad given by the farmers. Don't make a rule of it himself. Injurious to both employer and employed. They have so much the employer loses by it.

Families are better off if money is given instead; they take too much and can't do work after; the general allowance is two quarts a day.

Mr. Dunn offered a man 3*s.* a week instead of drink and he refused it; gives about two quarts a day. Mr. Lewis gives only two pints.

Mr. Ralph would say at Usk 13*s.* a week is the average wage, and find everything, cottage and all, out of it.

Mr. Evans says some men are better than others, and of course have higher wages. A good waggoner often gets 16*l.* a year; a bad often 9*l.* only.

Parish of Usk.

Population, 2,112.

78. *G. R. G. Ralph, Esq.*, thinks one of the worst things done by women and children here is "going to wood." They may be seen coming in with great bundles of wood on their heads. They are allowed to go out and take the dry wood from the many woods about here and from the hedges for their own use; but it ends in many of them bringing it into Usk and selling it to the bakers, &c. Some of them will make at this more than 1*s.* It is principally the Irish women who do field work; the Irish labourers are not skilled—they cannot plough, and so are not worth the wages of a Welshman.

There are many cotters in the hamlet of Gwenhellog, most of them holding of the Duke of Beaufort, who also has cotters in the parishes of Monkswood and Glascoed; would put the average of the rent paid to him at 1*l.* a year; the greater number pay about 10*s.*, some as little as 6*d.*, but as the leases on lives fall in some of the rents are raised. The farm buildings in the district are very bad; but then it must be remembered that the tenants are a class who would not appreciate better; they farm from 100 to 150 acres as a rule. The usual rent in the district is about 1*l.* an acre, but the farming is bad, though some of the land, especially beside the river, very good.

Mr. Ralph was good enough to show me the rate book, from which it appears that nearly every cotter has at least an acre of land; in one page of about 20 holdings were only two of less than an acre. Usk is a town, or rather large village, full of gardens; each house has its garden at the back; some very large in the middle of the town.

79. A day in Usk.—Diary, November 20, 1869.

Mr. Falconer (County Court Judge) took me to see the club room that he has built for the townspeople. Mr. Falconer considers that there is no great harm in the number of public-houses; they cut up the people into different sets, and there is less harm comes of that than of a large party drinking together. His club room is on strictly temperance principles; coffee and buns the only refreshment allowed. It is open at

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6 in the evening, and sometimes there are as many as 80 or 90 present. Newspapers are provided, and a bagatelle board, and draughts and backgammon; but no cards or playing for money allowed. The bagatelle board was bought for them, because there was one at one of the public-houses, which kept people away from the club-room. There is also a small library, but some bring their own books, and there is now and then reading aloud. Mr. Falconer hires the house at 14*l.* a year; the room has once been a school, and is sufficiently well adapted; the rest he lets off; but it is his great wish to be able to build a bigger and better room. There is in connexion with it a savings bank, and Mr. Falconer was good enough to show me his accounts. Sums exceeding 4*l.* in all are paid in in some weeks; and he has opened an unlimited account with Government.

We went also to see the Church, and the school, which is partly under Government, and receives also aid from Roger Edwardes' trustees; this year 41 children were presented for examination. There are two very good rooms, but there only being a schoolmaster at present it is a mixed school; it is open to all denominations. The vicar has just finished the construction of a Church school. Visited the jail, and then the Rev. W. Wilson, R. C. priest, took me to see the homes of the poor Irish; there is a good deal of overcrowding in many of their cottages, and the rents are generally enormous in proportion to the quality of the house.

1. The worst case of poverty I saw was one actually in the town, where a husband, wife, and four children all live in one cottage, beside a little wild-looking girl, whose parents are "very bad, and is as if she had no parents." The cottage has but one room below and one above, but both rooms are large, but the floor of the downstairs room is very rough, paved with big stones. The husband earns 10*s.* a week, and that not always certain. The house rent is 7*l.* a year, rates and taxes beside. The husband is a farm labourer; the wife goes out sometimes to get a little money, but only washing and such like; does not work out. "One day out in the fields is worse "than six in the house." The Rev. Mr. Wilson mentioned another case of a labourer on 10*s.* a week close by.

2. Close by a two-roomed cottage, one above the other, containing husband, wife, and four children, the eldest a tidy looking girl of 14. Rent 7*s.* a month, and rates to pay; was 8*s.* formerly and all rates paid. Next door a similar cottage, containing husband, wife, a son, grown up, with rheumatism, a servant out of work, and two younger children. Rent, 3*l.* 18*s.*

3. A row of cottages close by the church, consisting each of only one room downstairs, and a lobby and one bedroom upstairs. Rent 6*l.*, and besides this rates and taxes to be paid; at the Reform Bill rates were thrown on the occupier, but rent not lowered. In one cottage lived a husband and wife, husband earning 12*s.* a week, and four young children, the youngest a baby. Wife cannot go out to work. Husband works for Mr. Ralph. The wife is going away to Cork to fetch the child that her brother has just died leaving.

4. Tanhouse.—A row of houses in the suburbs we visited, containing one room downstairs, and one or two up; let at 2*s.* 6*d.* a week each, and rents and taxes to pay. In one lived a husband and wife, and four children; the husband has a bad arm, and is lucky if he makes 7*s.* a week; does not always make that. Wife goes out sometimes, but cannot often, as there are the children to mind; eldest boy is out keeping birds for Mr. Lister at 4*s.* a week. The smallest cottage was at the end, and when we entered seemed full of children; only two rooms, one above and one below. In it live a husband, wife, and six children, generally only five, but the eldest a girl of about 17 was at home, having left her place in service. The husband makes 12*s.* a week, and that seemed to be all the money that comes into the family. Rent, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

5. Walcheren.—Went into one of a row of cottages that branched off from the road; only one room above, one below; in it live a husband, making 12*s.* a week, wife, five children, and the old grandmother. The biggest boy is about 17 or 18, and works out, the rest at home are little children.

80. *Oliver Davis*, Usk, district surveyor.—Very well off for schools in this parish, and in the district generally, partially owing to Roger Edwardes' charity.

1. Middle class school, under Roger Edwardes' charity, to which farmers' sons, tradespeople of the town, and some clergymen send their children.

2. Church school, also partially supported by Roger Edwardes' foundation.

3. Elementary school for boys and girls, under Government, partially supported also by Roger Edwardes' charity and by the people of the town.

4. Roman Catholic school. There are out of a population of about 1,600 more than 200 Roman Catholics in Usk, a circumstance which has brought in a good many Irish labourers, who are generally the poorer classes in the town, and live in the worst cottages; they are, however, well behaved.

There are besides ladies' schools and Sunday schools in the neighbourhood.

At Llangwym (four miles) the dissenters have a school, and there is also a new National school going to be built, partly in connexion with Roger Edwardes' charity.

At Llansoy there is a Church school for boys and girls, and a dissenting school.

At Llantrissent (three miles) there is a large school.

At Llandenny a very good school; also at Llangibby.

At Glascoed the dissenters have a school.

At Monkswood there is a very good school for small children, to which children come from all the neighbourhood.

At Mamilad there is a good school.

At Goytrey, also, one just built by Colonel Bird.

There is little employment of boys before the age of 10 except bird-keeping, and after that age their parents generally contrive to get work for them. Some live at home, and some go into the farmhouses, where they look after sheep, cattle, &c. Plough driving has gone out a great deal for boys since the gee-ho driving came in. The soil is tolerably stiff, but they manage to plough without boys to lead the horses. They begin first for, perhaps, only their victuals. Girls go a great deal about the same age into farm-service, but do not work in the fields.

The wages in the district are pretty high, averaging 13*s.* Considers that the new Highway Act has had a good deal to do with the rise of wages. In his own capacity as surveyor employs men at 3*s.* 6*d.* a day on the roads, and finds them always ready to come. In getting men to break stones at 2*s.* 6*d.* he has a greater difficulty. You may always settle that people are well off when you see stones lying unbroken by the road. A good many of the men who go away to the mines come back crippled and bent while quite young. They are drawn away by the temptation of higher wages, quite forgetting that everything in the hills is more expensive.

Women get 10*d.* a day for picking swedes, hay-making, &c., but the English and Welsh women do not work much now; nearly all the women's work has been taken by the Irish. The Irish labourers are not so well off as the English, and are more stupid. Reckons the people of this county a more enlightened set than those of the West of England. The Irish will begin on 10*s.* a week, and go on perhaps on that for 10 years, finding a cottage out of it. Many of them rise however ultimately, and some, when they become skilled, will make as much as 18*s.* a week. It is their wives who do most of the out-door work.

Some of the Usk people, especially the Irish, go as far as five miles to work. Before the Act it was the custom very much in the neighbourhood to pull down cottages, so as to drive the people into the open parishes like Usk. Llangibby was a parish (three miles distant)

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where this was much done. The plan is going out now, and more cottages are being built; still many of the Usk people go long distances to work. Nearly all the Irish are agricultural labourers.

In the county generally the cottages are bad, but improving. There are some very bad specimens in Usk, especially where the Irish live; they bring in their native habits of not seeming to care where they live, and they herd together in wretched little hovels. The worst are the Tanhouse and Walcheren cottages. Mentioned a case in Newport of a street entirely inhabited by thieves and prostitutes; an Irish colony came over and entirely routed them.

81. *Rev. Thos. Wilson*, R. C. Priest, Usk.—The Irish colony here is chiefly from County Cork, and came over at the time of the famine. They are very badly off, but not worse off as a rule than the Welsh labourers, only they are a separate class and live much by themselves. Have many of the boys taken away from school to field labour very early, say about 10; go into the farms to do a bit of work there. Contrives to keep girls much longer. A good deal of work is done out by the Irish women; they go out to pick stones and cut swedes. Some men go as much as four miles to work.

Parish of Llangibby.

Population, *525*.

82. *Rev. E. A. Williams*, rector.—Llangibby is a very scattered parish, purely agricultural. There is no great cluster of houses at all, consequently many of the children have to come some distance to school; they are tolerably regular notwithstanding, and there are very few that do not come to school. They will go away at the age of 8 or 9 for bird-keeping, but come back again. There are about 60 children at the school, and about 20 more at another in one of the hamlets. The wages are about 12*s*., 2*s*. a day, and women work out very little, except in haymaking.

83. *Miss E.* ———, Llangibby.—Brother never employs children, except perhaps a boy to keep crows. Next to him our youngest would be about 17; he is under-waggoner, and lives in the house.

We have no less than four workmen living in the house; have to have a good many here, because there is a great want of cottages; we have only two, our head-waggoner, who is a married man, lives in one. Mr. Williams, the squire, did not build cottages, partly to keep down the poor-rate, partly because he also thought that boys and girls were brought up better living under the farmer's eyes. We give our men 12*s*. a week, and other advantages; they have their food in harvest, and the waggoner always his dinner. The men who live in the house have exactly the same food as we, and if you go into the cottages you will find the workmen living there nearly as well off. They all keep their poultry and pigs.

We have no one from Usk that comes out to work here, except one Irish woman, now an old woman, who comes every day, and has worked for us five years. She always works out, will not work indoors. We have also three or four women out from Usk for apple-picking or topping swedes. We have a good deal in roots, a great deal in pasture, but no dairy. Wheat does not grow well in the valley because of the blight. Our farm is 300 acres; it is the largest but one in the parish.

When our men marry, most have to leave us, because they cannot find a cottage. No new cottages are being built.

84. *J. Jenkins*, Glascoed, occupier.—Gave a shepherd 11*s*. a week and a cottage and garden, and about 30 perches; considers as good as 15*s*.; gave him dinner and supper lambing days, because cottage half a mile from house. Now my own son shepherd.

Gives waggoner who lives in house 12*l*.; and a boy in house 4*l*., aged 14.

Only men in regular employ, do all else by job work. Will sometimes get 2*s*. 6*d*. or 3*s*. Some fond of a drop of drink, will spend as soon as get it. Give drink; one man never happy unless drunk; getting 7*s*. 6*d*. a week and his board, May to September. Farm about 180 acres. In harvest would have employed a good many; three or four hands extra for a month this year; not many employed now; no apple-picking.

Puts mangolds out to piecework; sometimes a man and wife come, sometimes with one or two boys; has about 10 acres in roots. Gives about 8*s*. an acre. No boys keeping birds; not bad off in our part for rooks.

Parish of Goytrey.

Population, 567 - Acreage, 3,330.

Cultivation mixed; some farms as small as 20 acres, and the average about 35.

85. *Rev. Thomas Evans*, rector, Nantyderry.—There are no farms in the parish up to 100 or 200 acres; the consequence is the farmers are little better off than the labourers. Boys are employed "from 12 to 13 in hay and corn harvest, and potato "setting and picking;" sometimes they go keeping crows; youngest boy never less than 10 years of age.

"Girls are not often employed, perhaps a dozen "between 12 and 14 years of age occupied in harvest, "hay and corn, and potatoes." They are not in service, but live at home. They are no worse than other girls. "About half-a-dozen women in the parish" work; they weed and pick stones; some are pretty regularly employed, others only by the job; they are labourers' wives; pick stones and set and pick potatoes; little work among the swedes.

The cottages are pretty numerous on the farms; they go to work "from a mile to a mile and a half;" condition fair. Mr. Evans himself has just built a cottage with three rooms, but few are so well off.

There are two schools; a National school with 80 on the books, attendance to-day 40, which is very good out of a population of 557. There was a small dissenting school, but that has been shut up. The second school is kept by Mr. Bird over his stables, and he is engaged in building a school.

86. *Mr. James*, Goytrey, occupier.—Keeps his men in the house. Has no cottages; most people who live in cottages are employed out in piecework. Averages four in house all year. Two waggoners and another man among them; all unmarried. Some keep a labourer or two out. Average pay for a house servant 6*s*. 6*d*., with board and lodging; is worth nearly 16*s*.

Hedging is done by the perch, mowing and swede pulling by acre. A man will make 2*s*. 6*d*. a day. In summer often 3*s*. a day and victuals.

Women only work out in harvest. Very few in parish; never get less than 1*s*. a day. There is little going to wood now. They buy coal, 7*s*. 6*d*. a ton; 10*s*. at Nantyderry.

Never employ a boy; generally try to shoot down crows. Not badly off for rooks in the neighbourhood.

Parishes of Gwernesney and Llangeview.

Population, 216.

87. *Rev. J. Blower*, curate.—Two very small parishes, with scarcely 200 people between them. Very well provided with schools, but do not seem to care to avail themselves of them. The parents seem to like to get their children out as soon as ever they are able to earn anything. Will send them out at 10 to keep crows, and soon after get them work in the farmhouses. Nearly all the women work out more or less, turnip and swede cutting, or in the harvest. Reckons those who go out to work about the best of the women; those who stay at home get idling about. As a rule girls do not work; only know of one case of a girl about 13 working; she goes out to do work like a woman. She is the daughter of a man who works for Mr. Blower, rather a silly man; gets 12*s*. a week,

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his wife washes, and does field work too, when she gets a job. Has a little boy besides, who hawks coal for the poor; so there is a good deal of money coming into the household. They pay 4*l.* a year rent for their cottage, and keep a donkey and cart.

The regular wages are from 10*s.* to 12*s.*, but though wages are good men generally prefer irregular job work. They want to get on the roads or railway; his own man will probably go away at hay-making time, and work at that and at reaping through the summer, The consequence is, when that sort of work is over they are often thrown out of employment; then they are pretty ready to come and tell Mr. Blower. A good many idle hands, who he would rather get rid of, come and live in the village of Llangeview, with the idea of getting admitted into an almshouse when old.

Most of the cottages are conveniently situate on the farms; a farmer likes having a cottage let to him on a farm where he can have his own man, and get out of him as much work as ever he wants. Many of the cottages are very bad, but none so bad as those in the neighbouring village of Llangwym. The principal landowner does not build up the falling cottages, and so a good many of the people go away. Fortunately there are not very many children in the place, so there is no overcrowding, and the parents are very eager to get their daughters out into service, say at 10 years of age. Knows one instance of a family living in two rooms. One woman had too much room, and kept her pig in the house, and we had much difficulty in getting her to turn it out. There are a good many cot-rents, some heavily mortgaged; mentioned an instance of one man who borrowed 10*l.* on his, and brought up two pigs to pay off the debt; when the pigs where killed he spent the money, and let the debt go on.

As a rule reckons the people very well off, or they would not stay in the county.

Girls are kept at home a good deal to mind younger children while their parents are out at work.

Parish of Llantrissent.

88. *Mr. Jones*, occupier.—Is giving now 9*s.* a week and finds his men their cottage. Has only a little boy in the house. Give from 12*s.* up to 15*s.* I am giving a little more than some. In some places many living in the house begin at 4*l.* as a boy, and go up to 12*l.*

Boy in house about 12; keeps crows. Seldom employs women; they weed corn, pick stones off clover. Workmen's wives chiefly.

A good many cots, more than in most parishes. They pay an acknowledgment to Archdeacon Davis, lord of manor. Few freeholds. Cannot mortgage. As well (giving a man 7*s.* 6*d.* and victuals and drink) off here as most places. Have to keep in repair themselves; do a little every year. Some cover with stones, slate, straw, &c.

150 acres, rent under four gentlemen. Only a house where I live, on others no building. Men at work live close by. Farm, more corn than grass; rather on the hill. Much difference in land in the parish.

In summer gets about three men; in winter often do with one. Employ only one man regular, and a boy.

Part job work; thrashing now by the bushel. Always get work; often a difficulty in getting men.

89. Abergavenny Union.

Meeting of the Board of Guardians, *Hereford Times*, November 20.

The usual fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday week, Thomas Watkins, Esq., in the chair.

Agricultural Employment of Women and Children.

Mr. Robt. F. Boyle, assistant commissioner attended and stated that he should be glad to hear the views of the guardians, and should feel obliged for any information they might afford him. The first question was: At what age were children taken to work on farms, and what was the nature of their employment? The answer in general was, that 12 was the average age, and that the children were chiefly engaged in minding cows, running errands, and other similar light work.

The Commissioner.—What work are they usually first put to?

A Guardian.—Minding cows and pigs, and doing light work about the farm and in the house.

The Commissioner.—Do the boys generally live in the farmhouses?

A Guardian.—Yes, almost always. Sometimes they live at home when it happens to be convenient.

Mr. Gwillim.—Farmers' sons go to work a great deal earlier than other boys, and work harder too. He considered it was a very great mistake to keep boys from work till they were 12 years of age. It was much more difficult to get them into habits of usefulness when they arrived at that age. A lad worked far better out if he began when he was about 8. If they were not sent to work before they were 12 they were doing something worse.

A Guardian.—There is a scarcity of children.

Rev. S. W. Gardner said that the work to which the children were put to in this union was not of a distressing kind. He was confident they were never put to any work that was not suited to their strength. The farmers' own boys worked harder than the other boys.

It seemed, from further inquiries, that the only kind of work which might be said to be performed in gangs was that of hoeing turnips and potatoes, and then the numbers were very few.

To the second question, as to the means of education provided, and the extent to which such means were taken advantage of, the result of the answers seemed to be that, with the exception of the hilly portions of the agricultural district, ample means were furnished, and that the extent to which parents availed themselves of those means were on the whole satisfactory.

Mr. Williams (Pontwsgib) and Mr. John Watkins thought that compulsory measures ought to be passed to compel parents to send their children to school. In speaking of their own parishes, they pointed out one or two instances in which the fathers, instead of sending their children to school, spend the means of doing so in drink.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd) said that among some of the old sort a prejudice existed against educating children. He had heard it said that if it were not for so many schools they would not have so many cases of forgery.

The Rev. S. W. Gardner said that so far as his own neighbourhood was concerned the means were abundant, and the children generally attended school very well. If the parents did not happen to be in a position to pay the school pence, he always took care that it was paid. He considered that the means provided in this union were, generally speaking, sufficient. He was sorry to hear such an unfavorable account of the adjoining parish of Llantilio Pertholey.

On the question of wages it seemed that the usual daily wages of women was 1*s.*

The Commissioner.—With drink?

A Guardian.—No, without drink. The women are principally employed in picking apples, pulling and topping turnips, and picking stones. They don't work very hard. The same remarks applied to the whole district.

A Guardian.—Very few women worked on farms. They could not get them.

A Guardian.—That may, I think, be attributed to the fact that they have not the same scruples at attending at the workhouse for relief that they had formerly. They didn't seem to have the same pride now. They seemed to have become acquainted with the workhouse, and rather than work they very often sought relief.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—Girls were very rarely

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employed in outdoor work. They would not do it; they were too high. If you called Elizabeth "Betsy" you would give great offence.

Touching the question of the condition of labourers' dwellings, Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd) said that they were improving very fast.

Rev. S. W. Gardner.—And not without cause.

The Chairman said that on large estates the cottages were mostly occupied by the workmen.

The Rev. S. W. Gardner said that improvement was needed in the dwellings of labourers. Formerly they were nearly all thatched, but they had lately taken to slating them, and there being no ceiling the bedrooms were intensely cold in winter, while they were unbearably hot in summer. When there was more than one bedroom they were so constructed that in going into one you had to pass through the other. They were often badly built and badly ventilated.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—There is a lack of cottages.

A Guardian.—Occasionally the labourers had to walk two or three miles to work.

The Commissioner.—Is it usual to permit the men to live in the farmhouses?

A Guardian.—Generally, a few single men.

The Chairman.—There is a want of labourers.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—If there's a good man in this country he is picked up as a policeman, and those that are of little use are left for us.

The Commissioner.—Is it the exception to have more than one bedroom?

A Guardian.—There are generally two, but they have to pass through one to the other.

The Chairman.—Where there are more, they are often let to lodgers.

The Commissioner asked what the average weekly wages of farm labourers were.

The Chairman.—About 12*s.* weekly. Less than that sum is an exception.

The Commissioner.—Is any drink allowed?

A Guardian.—Cider—that is the usual drink.

A Guardian.—Where the labourer lives in a farm cottage the wages were not so much; sometimes he had the keep of a pig. With perquisites, he had at least 12*s.* a week.

Mr. Forrest.—I have had to give 15*s.*

A Guardian.—In the case of a waggoner 1*s.* a week extra is allowed, because he has to look to his horses on Sunday.

The Commissioner.—And what wages do you give boys?

A Guardian.—Well, he generally gets his victuals only to begin with, and as he gets more useful he is allowed wages—3*s.* or 4*s.* a week.

Mr. Gwillim.—Some boys at 12 years of age, if they have been put to work in time, would be worth 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week; but if left till they were 12 years old, they were very often entirely worthless. After being at school till they are 12 they think they ought not to work.

The inquiry then closed.

90. *Major E. Herbert*, Chief Constable, Llansaintfraed Court.—Farms himself. Employs no boy under 12 now. It is very difficult to get a boy even to keep crows, and keeping crows is a necessity, or they come and take the crops out of the ground. But really no boy need be worked under 12 years of age. Used formerly to employ a good many little boys, and his sister gave them schooling for two hours in the middle of the day, when they left off work, so it was really rather a good thing for them.

Hopes nothing will be done to prevent women working. The younger women do not work now, but some of the older ones support themselves entirely by coming out on such light jobs as picking turnips, &c. Has two old women almost in regular employ; one of them brought up a couple of daughters very well upon her earnings; they do not work out, but have gone to service. Get 1*s.* a day, and do not come out in wet weather.

Gives 12*s.* to 14*s.* on an average as wages, but no cider. This is more than most of the people about, who give 10*s.* and cider. Out of this they have to find a cottage, which generally costs 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Major Herbert however gives them to his men at less. The great evil of the county is the scarcity and bad character of the cottages. The fact is that cottages do not pay, and people will not build them. The farmers cry out very much now since the Union Chargeability Bill about the increase of rates. The fact is that the Bill was passed with the idea of benefiting them, which it does not do. The idea was to prevent people letting cottages go to ruin on their properties with a view to escaping having to support the poor. But it has not increased the number of cottages. It was thought too when the Bill was passed that it was only fair that farmers should pay for their labourers who live in towns when old or disabled, but the result is that many farmers who live far out of reach of town labour have to pay rates for the towns.

It is very strange that the cotters, who get their cottages almost for nothing, never seem to be as well off as those who hire. Major Herbert says he cannot understand the reason. Perhaps it is that the knowledge that whatever happens they have a roof over their heads makes them unthrifty. They will do job work for their richer neighbours, but like the Irish consider themselves above doing regular work. Many of the very best labourers in this county will not take regular work. If hired for a job they expect 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*, and if hired at harvest 5*s.* and 6*s.* a day, and such is the scarcity of labour command their price. One came the other day and asked for work when not wanted, and told Major Herbert, when he said that he would not work when he was wanted, that he had been out of work a fortnight. They like to be out of work a few days, and then get another job.

The character of people on the two sides of the county is entirely different; on the west side all Welsh, and small holdings; on the east side all English, and larger farms. Major Herbert can tell one of his men, and a Chepstow man, by his accent. When he wants a labourer he often employs one of the latter. The people in his parish are very well off. When the clergyman at Llanarth asked him to name people to whom to give poor-money he had rather a difficulty in finding any. On the hills is a very poor class of farmers, who do most of the tillage with their families.

Major Herbert observes everywhere an increasing desire on the part of the people to send their children to school.

Parish of Llanvihangel Crugcorney.

Population, 479.

91. *Rev. A. F. Hogan*, curate.—Have been rather curiously circumstanced about schools here. When Mr. Hogan first came there was one school under the care of Mrs. Rodney, a dame's school, to which girls were admitted up to any age, boys only up to 10, as they were supposed to become unmanageable after that age. Many of them were therefore sent to school in Abergavenny, and some actually walk there every day now, a distance of 4¼ miles. Mr. Hogan when he came established a school for the older boys, and he is happy to say with very satisfactory results. He has boys of from 11 to 16. The number who attend is 12, and he has adopted the half-time system, only having school from 9 till 12, the boys generally helping their parents in the garden. None of them is actually an ordinary labourer's son. The eldest boy is the son of a gardener, and another is the son of a blacksmith, two others of small tradespeople, three belong to one family, a small farmer's, who employs no other boys but his own to assist him in farm work. The nearest approach to a day labourer is the son of a bailiff of Mr. Rodney's, in receipt of 15*s.* a week. Mr. Hogan has lately (this month) established a night school; it has only just begun, but very well,

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so he cannot judge yet of his ultimate success. In a distant part of the parish, which is quite three miles long, another man has set up a school, at which he has about 40 pupils. [Mr. Hogan was good enough to show me his schoolroom, which is capital; it is made out of a bit of an old tithe barn partitioned off. The partition comes down if necessary, and makes benches for concerts, which now and again take place in the barn.]

Most of the labourers' boys get taken into farm service at about 12 or 13, and live in the farms. There is a great wish among the parents to get them out to service. Some of the girls will stay at Mrs. Rodney's school. Nearly all of them ultimately go to service. They prefer town service to farm service. Many go to Cheltenham, and Mr. Hogan remarked on the eastward tendency of service emigration. Carmarthenshire people are very glad to come to Newport and Cardiff, but Monmouthshire people must go to Cheltenham, and London is the great object of their ambition. Few girls will go out in the field; cannot quite say it is never done; and of women who still do it Mr. Hogan could only mention isolated instances, and those the older women. [A lady who happened to come in, residing in an adjacent Herefordshire parish, mentioned that there nearly every woman works out.] The work would principally be weeding turnips. Thinks that here there are no actual poor, so there is no necessity for women's labour. Good men will get at least 12*s.* a week, and cider in harvest. Has generally to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a day if he wants a man for a job, but very often actually cannot get one, which looks as if there was plenty for the men to do. He has often employed a tramp who has come to beg. Some are willing enough to work; one stayed with him three weeks; slept once in the barn, but the police not liking that went and got lodgings at Abergavenny, and came out every day. Some, however, will come and cut a bit of wood, get their dinner, and be off again.

The fact is the supply of cottages has been very limited, the squire having gone on the principle of not encouraging the building of more than absolutely necessary for the farm work. Nothing has been done yet since the new Act to make more, but Mr. Hogan is very sure it would be well worth anyone's while to build half a dozen new cottages. The consequence is that many of the men come a mile and a half to their work. Mentioned an instance of a young man lately who married, and wanted to stay on and work in the village, but had to go, not being able to find a dwelling. Rent about 6*l.*

Many of the cottages are very bad, but would not say there is much overcrowding, owing to children of both sexes being generally located in service before the age of 13. Some cottages have three bedrooms, in which case they would be small; some two, but many, and some of these of the more roomy, are only divided by curtains. Mentioned especially two wretched cottages, which were built when the railway people came, all on one floor, and which contain only two rooms each. One of these is a mere wooden shed, but only inhabited by a labourer and his wife; the other is built of stone and slate, but there live in it a labourer and his wife, a big son, and a small one; they all sleep in the same room, with only a curtain partition. Nearly all the cottages are built of stone and slate. Even in the large inn a curtain partition is all there is to divide the large apartment in which the family sleep. As far as healthiness and drainage are concerned these two are as good or better than many larger.

Parish of Bryngwyn.

Population, 313 - Acreage, 1,484.

Cultivation mixed.

92. *Venerable Archdeacon Crawley*, rector.—Boys are employed "not usually under 12 years of age; younger boys are occasionally employed in potato-setting, apple-gathering, bird scaring, &c. No restriction is required hereabout; but if in any case desirable I would place the limit at 12 years of age.

"Girls are not employed. I know of four women only who are so employed (except in hay-making), and those only occasionally. They usually do job work, and come to it and leave it at their own convenience; when employed by the day they have their meals at the farmhouse, and are thus engaged from 6 or 7 in the morning till supper time."

There is "a dame's school for the younger children, and good school in the adjoining parish for the elder, of which most of them take advantage. If not, it is owing to the carelessness and indifference of the parents.

"The cottages in general are in good condition, and more in number than are sufficient for the supply of labour here. They are conveniently situate, and not overcrowded. Water is usually to be had near at hand, though few have wells or pumps on the premises. They are not ill-ventilated. Almost all have good gardens; allotments of land are not convenient for so scattered a population as that of this county."

Parish of Llantillio Pertholey.

Population, males 509, females 475, total 984.

Acreage, 68,590. Cultivation mixed.

93. *Rev. Thomas Morgan*, vicar.—"There are few boys, if any, under 13 employed in agriculture in the parish generally; in this parish there is no real occasion for any restriction with regard to the labour they perform, as it is very moderate, and only a little extra on fine days in harvest."

Girls not employed; women only in harvest.

"There are parochial schools for the children suitable to the labouring class, and in most instances they take advantage of them. There are instances in which parents do not take advantage of the privileges they might have if they sought it."

Cottages "on the whole very good." Most have gardens, and some allotments.

Parish of Cwmyoy.

Population, 649.

94. *Rev. Lewis Lewis*, vicar.—Oddly enough there are few children in the parish; have only baptised four in as many years, which is very few, even allowing for half the people being Baptists. Built a school here about six years ago, a good stone building; has a schoolmistress; no Government aid; is open to all denominations; but the Bible is read. Usual attendance is small, but the distances to come are very great, the parish being 6 or 7 miles long; sometimes get as many as 40, which is pretty well considering. Was up yesterday at what is called the Castle, in Llantillio parish, two miles distant, and saw a capital school with 40 children.

The population of this parish is very much diminishing, owing to the smaller farms being amalgamated into large; a good many of the old farms about here are going to ruin. The people do not like it; but it cannot be helped. Mr. Landor's agent, who is a Somersetshire man, is bringing in two Somerset farmers.

95. *Miss Browning*, schoolmistress.—Has 23 in school to-day, of whom nine are girls. Has 27 on the books this week. In January, February, and March, months in which there is least to do, will have about 10 more. In summer only gets about 14, and they only little ones, the youngest a boy only 2; the eldest who comes in summer is a girl of 11. The farmer's boys are taken away in the summer at an earlier age than the labourers'. Often find a labourer's boy much sharper than a farmer's. Girls are generally sharper than the boys. They too are taken away to the fields in summer, though not as much as boys. They go haymaking. Many of the children have a

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Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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long way to come. As it happens, only two girls live near. Some come 2½ miles, but they come pretty well all the winter months.

96. *Robert Gwillim*, Llanthony Abbey, Cwmyoy Upper.—Gives in money 8*s.* a week, but gives besides a cottage, two quarts of cider, corn cheap, feed of a pig, &c., and reckons his men's place worth 12*s.* a week. It is a mountain parish with a deal of bad pasture. The farmer's own son begins work earlier than the labourer's. Some of them begin at 8 years of age to work for their parents; not only the small farmers but the large farmers too. They learn their work much better from beginning early.

97. 19 November 1869.

Overtaken half a mile from Llanthony by a farmer going to Abergavenny fair. Lives two miles above Llanthony. Most of the valley belongs to Mr. Landor. Formerly was all small farms, 20 to 50 acres. Is being gradually now consolidated into large farms. Population is diminishing. Not half what I can recollect. A many goes away to the mines. Mr. Gwillim's is the largest farm, and there's another large one down there, two joined together. No one lives in one of the houses. Cottages are not much wanted for labourers. There are few labourers here. What there is lives in the house mostly till they marry, and then has to look out for a cottage. In the farm servants live like one of the family.

Many of the farms are so small that a farmer can manage them with his family only. My boy works for me, and I have two men living in the house. My boy began to work a'most as soon as he could walk. Would come out and lead horses in harvest and liked it. Could lead a horse at 7 or 8 years old. A farmer's boy who begins early always manages a horse better than a labourer's boy who don't begin till 10. A labourer's boy has not the same advantages. There's no bird-keeping here, and all ploughing is done now by gee-ho teams, so a boy is not wanted to drive the leading horse, as when ploughing was done tandem.

"There is no work for women much. Labourers' wives will do a bit of swede-cutting, but 'tisn't like it is in Herefordshire; we don't expect labourers' wives to work. When we hire extra men we have to give 12*s.* a week, and if he takes a cottage give him advantages in food for fowls and pigs and two quarts of cider. But there are not many men regularly employed; two down here at this farm, two at Mr. Gwillim's, and two on there. A man will come out for us in summer, and do planting for Mr. Landor in winter. There is a deal of planting being done along the slope of those hills. Mr. Landor gives 12*s.* a week, but no cider.

"Very little Welsh is taught in the valley now. English is taught in the schools, and Mr. Lewis preaches in English. Remember a deal more, mostly that side (left bank) of the river. Better soil for wheat there. This side grows oats and barley. There is a school at Llanthony; another, a new one, at Cwmyoy. All one parish. Lots of dissent. Two chapels. Father Ignatius also is going to build a monastery beyond Llanthony."

RADNORSHIRE.

Radnorshire.

Rhayadr Union.

1. Meeting of Board of Guardians at Rhayadr, Wednesday, November 24, 1869.

As a rule children do not work out much under 12, and the children of the smaller farmers work out more than those of the labourer, and at an earlier age. The chairman said that the schooling of children whose parents cannot afford to keep them at school is paid out of the rates. Very little bird-keeping is done, in fact there are very few crows as it happens. Most of the boys when they begin work go to live in the farmhouses, where they are treated as one of the family. If they do not begin at 10 or 12 they are little good as farm labourers.

The parishes in this union, as a rule, are well provided with schools, though of such large extent that many are obliged to have two.

Some of the gentlemen having mentioned St. Harmons as an exception, Mr. Meredith mentioned that a new school has just been opened, at which were more than 45 first time. There is also a small school in another part, kept by a schoolmistress on her own account. The new school is built by subscriptions among the farmers and people, the scholars, of course, to pay. Mr. Rice had not wished to subscribe, as he thought that, while about it, they might have had a school on a better footing.

At Nantmel is a school well attended. Mr. Edwards counted 30 boys, and supposed there was as many girls. There is also another, supported by a dissenting body, to which an old gentleman left money.

In Cwmdauddwr are two schools, and an endowed school close to the town, which has been put under Government. Over the rest of the parish the population is small, and upon the border there is little or no schooling: at Nant-Gwyllt Miss Lloyd keeps a school.

Mr. Price mentioned that for 10 miles up the Wye there is no school beyond St. Harmons; the population, however, is small.

As an instance of the interest generally taken in the schools, it was mentioned that some of the farmers four and five miles distant have been known to send their children into Rhayadr to school.

Women work out very little now; a decent servant won't take out-door work. Perhaps one or two will go out here and there to pick swedes and set potatoes. Mr. Meredith, of St. Harmons, mentioned a case of a woman from Abbeycwmhir coming to work in his parish.

As a rule the cottages are very much improved of late years; but there are some very bad still. You will find them generally as bad in the town as in the country round. At St. Harmons there are some wretched hovels, and a few in Nantmel are bad. At Abbeycwmhir they are generally good.

The chairman calculated the rent of a cottage in Llanyre at 4*l.*; in Abbeycwmhir, at 1*s.* a week; they belong at the latter place to Mr. Phillips; at Nantmel also Mr. Edwards mentioned that they are let for 1*s.*

To an inquiry as to the quality of the shepherds' cottages on the mountains, it was stated that since the enclosure there is no necessity for shepherds, and most men employed in the mountains live in the employer's house.

At Nantmel, Mr. Edwards stated the wages at 10*s.* and a cottage, firing, potatoes given, and cyder in harvest. Mr. Phillips, at Abbeycwmhir, gives 12*s.*; at Llanbadarn cannot get a man under 15*s.*

The greater part are employed by the year; but many men will be employed by two farmers, taking perhaps three days for one and three days for another. Some men are never regularly employed, but work only by the piece.

Parish of Abbeycwmhir.

Population, 540 - Acreage, 10,961.

Chiefly pasture.

2. Rev. James Evans, Vicar of Abbeycwmhir and Llanyre, Chairman of Rhayadr Board of Guardians.

"Boys, as a rule, are not employed here under 13; "they never work except on the farm on which they

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"live. I find but little difficulty in inducing the farmers "and labourers to send their children to school; "there may be exceptions, but there are very few." School attendance is affected by distance "in no "degree. Children, where the distance is too great "for them to walk daily, lodge at some convenient "cottage or farm for the five days of the week." The girls are "simply taught to sew, make and cut "out every kind of garment, and knitting."

"The cottages, upon the whole, in this parish are of a very superior class, and the labourers and their families who occupy them are intelligent, moral, and industrious; their children are well educated, and in most instances attend school up to the age of 13, and I find these children often return for a few weeks to school at the age of 17 or even 20, so much do they value education. I know that improved cottages have very much to do with the much improved morals of the labouring class, and without proper cottage accommodation it is most difficult to improve the morals, or to make them respect themselves."

The ANNUAL TABLE showing the attendance and payments of the Abbeycwmhir National School, as shown to Her Majesty's Inspector, May 1869.

Quarter.	Average No. present.	No. present at all.	Average No. of Days attended by each child present at all.	No. on Register.	School Pence. £	s.	d.
1	33·6	35	4·8	53	1	16	3½
2	41·5	44	4·6	63	3	6	1½
3	44·	45	4·9	67	3	8	4
4	46·	48	4·9	57	3	2	4½
Result for Year.	41·3	43	4·8	60	11	13	1½

The above Table ends with April 30th, 1869.

On the Register of Abbeycwmhir school.

	Boys. Under 10.	Over 10.	Total.	Girls. Under 10.	Over 10.	Total.
Summer - -	16	12	28	23	8	31
Winter - -	14	15	29	13	11	24

In average attendance.

Summer - -	28	8	20	16	8	24
Winter - -	10	13	23	9	10	19

3. *Mr. Attridge*, Schoolmaster.—Average age of boys is 12; we have them up to 16. All biggest are away to day beating for the squire, Mr. Phillips; 14 out of the first and second classes are taken for the purpose.

On average on books 60; about even the boys and girls in number. Average attendance 41; that was the number presented for examination.

There are some children in the parish who never come, principally those that live a long distance off, for the parish runs five or six miles. Little ones come in the summer more than the winter, because of the distances and bad weather.

Farmers children are taken away to work more than labourers, and begin work earlier, almost as soon as they could walk. Considering the population the school attendance ought to average between 50 and 60.

The distances very great; but some distant children come.

In the summer had two big boys coming four miles who stop in place: the children of men with small holdings.

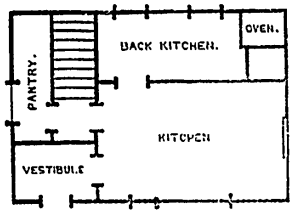
The farthest distance a little one comes is nearly two miles.

(It is a mixed school; all taught by one master, and the youngest is four years old. Some girls stay up to 16 or 18. There are on the books two young men of 19 and 20, but they only came for one quarter when little work was doing.)

4. *Henry Robinson*, agent to G. H. Philips, Esq.—"Boys are seldom employed as servants in this district under 14 years. Girls are scarcely ever employed here in work on the farm; I mean out-door work, unless it be in the hay-fields. All our work-people live in cottages on the farm or very near to it. There is a National school under Government inspection; a certificated master and sewing mistress. The children are all well educated, and very regularly attend school."

5. Cottages belonging to G. H. Philips, Esq. Diary, Nov. 26, 1869.

"The first pair were inhabited by his labourers at 12*s.* a week, and let to them at 1*s.* They were substantially built of brick with slate roofs, and no ornament. The rooms were larger than any I have yet seen in model cottages. We entered a vestibule, out of which a door on the right led into the big kitchen; at the back was the back kitchen, containing the oven and boiler, and a door led out into the back yard. At right angles to the door into the back kitchen is the door that opens on the staircase, and facing that door the door into a pantry, a long narrow strip. Upstairs are three bedrooms, two very good indeed, one with a fire-place. All three are lofty, and have very little sloping roof. There was a little too much room taken up in passages on the upper story, but this we saw altered in a second pair that we visited. In this latter pair the three doors of the three bedrooms opened on to a square landing at the top of the stairs, so that every atom of space was made use of. This latter pair were rather larger than the others, and had some slight ornamentation with variegated bricks outside. In one of them the cowman lived, a man on 12*s.* a week, in the other the schoolmaster. At the back of each is a small yard, walled in, with a privy at the end of it. Mr. Philips told me that this latter pair cost about 400*l.*



PARISH OF LLANYRE.

Population, 744 - Acreage, 5,901.

6. *Mr. Tewdwr Thomas*, schoolmaster, Newbridge-on-Wye.—"The age at which boys are generally employed in agriculture in this parish is about 14 or 15, all times of the year. Very few girls are employed, except at harvesting and potato-planting. It is desirable that boys should not be allowed to work in the fields until they are at least 13 years of age; but if there were no night-school in the parish I should certainly limit the age to 14. There is an excellent national school in the parish, which is well attended. There is no difficulty in this school to secure good attendance; as a rule the farmers send their children to school very regularly; though in some parts of Wales I have experienced great difficulty in getting farmers' children to attend. The average attendance at the school last year was 74.

"Women are very little employed, except farmers' daughters, who assist their own parents.

"The cottages are very rapidly improving in this parish, though there are some of the old-fashioned ones still remaining; there are not many built on the

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Radnorshire.

Mr. Boyle.

farms. As a rule farmers in this part hire single men for the year, who sleep and eat in the house. I know of no instance where the cottages are over crowded in this part. Water is sufficiently near to all the houses. All the cottages which I know of have good gardens; even those which are in a dilapidated condition have excellent gardens attached to them."

Attending in the school to-day are three young men, and three big girls. The biggest of the latter is daughter to a gamekeeper, and the next a farmer's daughter. The young men have been in service, but have only taken service this time for six months in order to come to school six. There is great interest taken in the school here, perhaps from having felt the want of it for so long. Most of the children come from the village, but there are a good many come four or five miles, walking here and back every day, some from both sides of the river, some from the adjacent parish of Disserth. It is entirely an agricultural village; most of the labourers who work for farmers, except those on Mr. Watt's place, live in Newbridge. Mr. Watt has cottages.

When the Enclosure Act came, a small man would buy up a bit of land in the village, and run up a few cottages on it. Some are very bad indeed; but the rent comes to from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* Would not say there are six women in the parish who ever do any work out; girls are kept at home to nurse children, but not from that special clause. The labourers' children attend better than the farmers'; the fact is the farmer's child has more outdoor work to do. Many of them will hardly come at all in the summer months; a difference of 18 perhaps is the average. Tried a night school last year, but it did not answer. They did not take an interest in; got about a dozen at first, and then it dwindled.

It is a mixed school under Government; private subscriptions amount to 39*l.*, and the pence and Government aid pays the rest. All denominations come, and have never had any trouble in that way; each has its separate Sunday school.

7. *William Price* (aged 17).—Used to go to school at Llanyre; first came here at 17. Used to work for father at 11 years old. General work about the farm; the farm is a stock-farm. Have eight brothers; we do all the work for father. There are three little ones who work for him, from 12 years down to six. The youngest could do something, run about on errands, or something of that kind. Begin work about May, and come to school about this time of year.

8. *Rees James* (aged 13).—Work on father's farm. Began at about 8. Mind sheep and cattle; lead horses. Didn't go to school then; but was at school a little before this school was built. Go off in May, and come back here about two months ago; have no brothers.

9. *Sarah Ann James* (aged 16). — Go setting taters, and doing another other work father will ask me to do. Don't like it much; like work in the house better. Used to set taters, and do other work when 9 years of age; besides setting taters used to spread the muck on the land, when it was to be sown. Never minded the sheep; my sister used to do that; she is older than me. Mind the cattle very often, and milk. Father is a farmer; only keeps one servant.

10. *Eliza Morris* (aged 16).— Does work with father; goes binding with him; sets taters; never does anything else; never minds sheep or cattle. Only went this last year; was about 15.

11. *Ann Samuels* (aged 15).—Has been in service in a farm-house; would do a little out-door work now and then, such as washing taties and setting them; would go out in the harvest; did the milking; never minded sheep. Master only employed beside me one boy, and his son, and we did all the work. The boy was 22 years old. I went to service when I was 13. Father is a carpenter. Used to go to school, to one kept by two women. Was no school in the village. Only came here and began yesterday.

Parish of Llanbadarn-fawr.

Population, 475 - Acreage, 3,731.

12. *James Homer*, occupier and bailiff to E. Severne, Esq.—Keep sheep, but have no sheep-walk; all commons enclosed about two years ago. All private property of those who a right before. Mr. Severne lets the tenant keep the pasture so long as he pays expenses of fencing. All rents; the others put on are small, Lord Ornathwaite charges 2*s.* 6*d.*

Farm about 200 acres for Mr. Severne; only keep about 12 acres of my own. Keep a good many stock; a good deal of cattle kept about here for breeding; a good many farmers buy them in and sell again. Just about here chiefly cattle; five miles above is all sheep. Down the river towards Builth, cattle and sheep mixed.

All our labourers live in cottages; very tidy and sufficient. Wages 10*s.* a week, cottage and garden, potatoes, and firing. Carter has more. Most give 10*s.* or 12*s.*, but no cottage; in regular employ. Men do fencing work by the yard, and will often make 1*l.* a week. Most of the farmers keep them in the house.

We sow six or seven acres with wheat, some barley, and about 10 oats; not much in this county. We employ in harvest or such work two women, labourers' wives, 1*s.* a day, but so well off don't seem to care. When a boy gets a lump of a boy of about 12 or 14 employ him too. A boy would go into a farmhouse at 12, no one before; farmer might put a boy of his own to work younger. Better off in our parish for schools, and most go. Very compact parish, and so easy for them to come. Other schools bordering on parish, and some of the children go to them.

Parish of Nantmel.

Population, 1,453 - Acreage, 16,387.

13. Notes of Vestry Meeting at Nantmel.

Present: Rev. T. J. Thirlwall, Rev. J. Evans, Messrs. Williams, Walker, Edwards, &c.

The system of the county is not favourable to the employment of labour of women and children. Boys are taken into the farmhouses at 13 or 14. Mr. Walker employs four young men, and one man in a cottage on his farm; they must have men living in the house because there are not enough cottages for them to live in.

All agree that there is a great inclination to send children to school among the people, but the difficulty is that the distances are so great. The parish is 10 miles long. There is a very good school close by the church; and another, a British school, a mile and a half up the road. Children on the outskirts go to Llanwrthwl, Abbeycwmhir, and St. Harmons school. Those who are in the direction of St. Harmons are probably the worst off; of course, there are some children who get little or no schooling, but probably the number is small.

There are some very bad cottages, but improvements have been made. Cottage rent too is very high. One of these bad cottages, thatched and with only one bedroom, often lets for 4*l.* The overseer, Mr. Griffiths, who was present, represented that some of the roomiest cottages are some of the old thatched ones; some are made out of old farmhouses. I mentioned a cottage I had passed on my way from Abbeycwmhir, and was told I had lighted on one of the very worst; it was built of thatch and wood, but seemed roomy. Mr. Thirlwall said there were hardly any as bad as that; it was a small freehold.

14. *Rev. T. J. Thirlwall*, vicar.—Want very much to get new schools; it is impossible in a parish of this extent to get the children to school. At one time had an attendance, up to 90; very good, considering the school is at one end of the parish, and there is no village, only scattered houses. Amounts to 60 or 70 now. (A handsome building, with two rooms for boys and girls.) Was built before Mr. Thirlwall's time, but badly built, and is not substantial enough. Besides this, there is a British school, supported by a grant

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from the society, a mile and a half further on the Rhayadr road. Wants very much to get two more schools in distant parts, as all outlying children have to go to other parishes, or to none at all. It cannot be helped, but in such parishes as Nantmel and Cwmdauddwr there must be children who never go to school. Still the people are very good about it, and some children come four miles. The resident gentry are few, so it is very hard to get subscriptions to new schools. The farmers as a class are poor, and so not ready to subscribe, it being money hardly earned and so to be kept; besides though thinking it right that every child should know how to read and write, they do not think it necessary he should do much more than that.

In this district there is little work for women to do. Nearly all the farmers go upon the system of having indoor servants. There are hiring fairs every May at Penybont and Rhayadr, at which they come to be hired, and few will stay at one place more than three or four years. They like change. Everything is upset about that time; you can get no one to do anything. All the lettings take place from the day of the fair. The indoor servants are all young men and boys, and are on the same footing as the farmer's family, with whom they have their meals. The farmers very seldom have fresh meat, but dine on bread and cheese and bacon, and the servants all share. The farmers' sons work out with the labourers, and generally begin at an earlier age than a labourer's boy to do a little work about the farm. There is little difference between the labourer and the farmer. Of actual labourers there are very few. When a young man in service has put by a little money, and a servant girl the same, they will marry, and set up a farm on their own account with a capital of perhaps 80*l.* to 100*l.* They will go to a sale and buy stock, a good deal on trust, and if they are lucky and get on at first, they will prosper; if not, perhaps emigrate. But this system is diminishing now; the farms are being consolidated into large farms, which require more capital, and a small man cannot undertake a farm. Almost the only labourers living out in cottages are those employed by Mr. Morgan Evans, the squire. He gives 12*s.* wages. When extra labour is wanted the neighbours assist one another very much. There is a very clannish feeling, and they have intermarried a good deal. Consequently a man will do, say, two days harvesting for another, and then in the winter the other will perhaps do some work for him. All the farms are stock farms, just growing what corn and roots are wanted for their own use.

15. *John Edwards,* Maesygellig, occupier.—Mr. Edwards farms about 140 acres, about 90 acres hill side for sheep-enclosed. Plough 23 acres, rest pasture. Usual character, plough 20 to 30 acres, rest meadow land and hill, what we call mowing land, not good grazing land.

Keep two men, and a young fellow about 18. All live in the house, generally happens unless with gentlemen. In harvesting and letting out wheat to cut we hire a man, 2*s.* a day, or 2*s.* 6*d.* in harvest, and food. Could have a man all the year round at 2*s.* a day. Such a man is generally in work, say taking jobs or on the roads. Cottages not so much required in this county.

Perhaps half a dozen freeholders on the corner of the common will take a job now and then, or be in small trades.

Milk nine cows, and all make cheese; farm servants milk. In fact, my three men are my three sons, and I have only one farm servant. When my boys were young had to keep two men. My boys are very good scholars, much better than me. Some of these schools in the small parishes have such bad schoolmasters; poor and cannot afford to be under government. We have a good one. A good deal of dissent in Nantmel.

Hardly employ any women; don't have turnips much.

16. *John Griffiths,* overseer.—New cottages built on a pretty fair scale. A great many built lately with three bedrooms. Some of the old ones very large. Some old farmhouses, which have been thrown into larger ones. Generally make one cottage, as only one door. W... hin and cold. Some of them built of wood; have been lath and plaster inside, but fallen down. They go down and are allowed to. In the town here they build more than in the country.

In Newbridge men live and go out to work two miles. Some stop out and sleep near their work. Gentlemen who employ labour generally contrive to have cottages on the ground. Farmers generally hire single men by the year, who live in the house. If married, have to take a cottage and do what they can. The job men are generally married men. A job man can earn most money. Unless a very good workman he is often out of work though. If a very good man, can often make 12*s.* to 18*s.* a week. In summer very hard to get a man, but now plenty of men to be had. Saw one the other day looking for work on the road.

A few years ago we were building many cottages. Squire Phillips at Abbey has built a good many new and good, with three bedrooms.

PARISH OF ST. HARMONS.

Population, 902 - Acreage, 15,522.

17. *Rev. J. B. Evans,* vicar.—Nearly every boy is taken to work as soon as he is fit for it, say at 10. We have no regular school, but are just beginning to build one. Even then do not think they will come regular. They will be off to the harvest and the potato setting and picking.

Our Radnorshire girls do not work now; they are too fine for it; but can recollect them doing a great deal. When I farmed myself employed two girls, whom I taught to hoe and pick turnips, and very much they liked it. Farmers like to get a Cardiganshire girl as a servant; she will do a lot of out-door work for them, such as all the milking and going out to spread manure; but they, when they come here, get above that soon. They will come at about 16, but in two years they will be as particular as the Radnorshire girls. Cardiganshire girls are very good working girls. Cannot say so much for them in other ways. Radnorshire itself has a bad reputation, and it is hard to get rid of, but no worse than its neighbours. Certainly a good proportion of the women married are in the family way, and there are a good many illegitimate children. In this it is worse than it used to be, a great deal of which is owing to the young men and women getting out together after being at the services. They come out in the dark and pair off, and the natural consequences result.

18. *Mr. Rice,* occupier.—All the parish is enclosed now; one common 17 years ago, and the other being enclosed now. Two lords of the manor. The lord of the manor has his fourteenth or sixteenth. I had 800 acres of sheepwalk. Landlord had to buy it under the Commissioners, and now we have to pay rent. Pay by taking so much for the lot. Farm about 150 acres besides, and half only useful. Little meadow. Grow wheat, barley, and oats, what we eat, and make by the sheep. 800 to 1000 sheep.

Only work my two sons, and two servants in the house, and sometimes hire a man or two. Have a cottage on the farm, but the man working part of time for another. Sent boys down to Rhayadr to school, five miles. Lodged in town. Servants, day men get 14*l.* a year. Gave 16*l.* to one, but he was as good as two. Extra man; sometimes 1*s.* 6*d* a day, sometimes 2*s.* A broken-down man will often get only 1*s.* 6*d.* Plenty of tramps. Have one thrashing now. Get one sometimes for 9*d.*, and glad to do it. Have had one for a month.

Milk six or seven cows. House servants do that. Never employ a woman except sometimes the labourer's wife, setting potatoes and haymaking.

19. Cottages at St. Harmons.—Diary, Nov. 30, 1869.

With the Rev. Mr. Evans, to see cottages and farm-buildings. First one of the old sort, built chiefly of rubble and thatched with straw. The thatch very old

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and worn, the whole looking as if it would soon come down. One window on each side of the low door. We went in and found two small rooms; there was hardly room for us besides the old man who lives there, and a female visitor with her child. It is an old-fashioned high fire-place, but placed in the centre of the building, so that it warms both the kitchen and "the chamber," the only other room. The roof is so low that we can put up our hands and touch almost any part. The thatch all open except where roughly covered over with paper. The old man who lives in it said he paid some small rent; would not say what; but the woman present was his landlady, which, perhaps, accounted for it. There seemed three different kinds of cottage. These old ones which are getting scarcer now, and of which we did not see above half a dozen; then some more substantial looking buildings of stone with tile roofs; and lastly some as good as you would wish anywhere. These last have been built since the railway came, and it was easy to bring stone and lime. Before that stone was scarce, and a great many of the cottages built of wood. Hardly any built before the railway came are two storeys high. One of the second class, stone and slate roof, but very low, one storey high, belonged to the mole-killer, and comprised two rooms only. It is, however, more roomy, but outside the appearance of dirt is deplorable, a stack of dung right against the door. Next to a cluster of small cottages of the oldest and poorest kind, built on the edge of the old common. The whole parish is enclosed now, but when the Act was obtained such of these squatters as could prove their title for 20 years obtained the freehold for nothing, the others had to pay *5l.* each. They all have a very good bit of ground attached, but the houses are wretched; old thatch, old walls, two rooms only, with the smallest of windows. A man and wife and two children live in the cottage, and the children seem to thrive in the dirt and squalor. There are many of these small holdings scattered about on the hill side. Each tills his own bit of land, and does work too for the farmers. Among the farmers are many freeholders, who till, perhaps, their 100 to 200 acres. Most of them are poor men. Mr. Evans pointed me out some farm buildings that anywhere else would only have been a fair-sized cottage, containing below a kitchen, and pantry, and a dairy at the back, with the upper storey only an open loft all opening into one room. The man it belongs to has a farm of 200 acres. Close by, however, was one of the opposite kind, a capital new building of stone and brick, with a slate roof, built since the railway came. They are a very primitive people here. Mr. Evans can recollect the system of *bidding weddings*, at which all the guests were asked to contribute to the young people's stock at beginning, some giving money, some a piece of furniture or a beast, the reason being that as a rule they were too poor to start in life without. This was done even among the best of the farmers, and often they would collect as much as *200l.* The old custom of chasing the bride has not long gone out. Her father or brother would take her up on a horse, ride part of the way to church, and then try to make off down some bye road. The guys (grooms men) would give chase, and after a long hunt, surround the fugitives, and bring them in triumph to the church.

PARISH OF CWMDAUDDWR.

Population, 798 - Acreage, 32,000.

Cultivation chiefly pastoral.

20. *Rev. W. Williams* (vicar), Tynpistyll.—"There are comparatively few cottages in this parish. The usual type is very poor indeed; but long habit has accustomed the people to their discomfort; the effect on morals is no doubt bad. The morals of the young women in this district is, I fear, very much corrupted. It is with much regret that I state that it is quite the exception for young women of the rank of farmers' daughters and downwards to be married before they are far gone with child. This, in a great measure, arises from the free intercourse between males and females in the house and in the field, and also from the ordinary operations of the farm-yard, which are the subject of conversation in the presence of the females, tending as it seems to me to lessen their moral tone."

Cottages consist of, generally—"two rooms down-"stairs with a loft overhead to the roof—little venti-"lation, except by chimney and door-way, as the "windows are seldom made to open. Drainage, "little or none except what the natural fall of the site "supplies. Abundance of water; generally a small "garden for herbs. Potatoes grown on the farm "either at the rate of 10*s.* per bushel, or as large a "quantity of land as the cottager can supply with "manure."

Number of children, young persons, and women employed:—

Males.				
Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Total Males.
—	2	10	14	26

Females.				Over 18.		
Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total Females.
—	2	10	7	15	25	59

Cwmdauddwr (the valley of two rivers) is an enormous parish, counting all the county west of the River Wye, 32,000 acres, of which 25,000 is common. Of course it is very difficult to manage about schools; the school, like the church, is in a corner close to Rhayadr, and is in fact a town school. Out of the 25 cottages that constitute the principal village, only divided from Rhayadr by the bridge, only three are inhabited by labourers. There is a small endowment for the school, and it is under Government, but according to the present system, though he passes more than 50 children, he very often gets only *5l.* from Government. It would be a great boon if this school could be converted into a middle-class school, which is much wanted. The tradesmen send their children up to a certain age, but then if they want to give them more education they must send them elsewhere. At present an arrangement has been made with Rhayadr by which this is a boys' school, and the Rhayadr school a girls'. Rhayadr is a very small parish; no part of it a quarter of a mile from the church.

Mr. Lewis Lloyd, at Nant-Gwyllt, five miles up the valley has another school, a mixed one, to which children will often come three and four miles, often to the number of 50. There are so few houses there that you would be astonished to know where they come from. Besides this, one of the farmers up the Wye valley who has a good deal of room, has given a room in his farm for the purpose, and the neighbours have combined to keep a schoolmaster for the six winter months; there are about 15 children educated thus. But of course the farmers complain of the distance children have to come; saying that they often have to go to the expense of boarding and lodging them in Rhayadr. To the Cwmdauddwr school children will come in four miles, bringing their dinner with them to eat in the school. The school is open to all denominations, and all learn the catechism; but on Sunday each chapel has its separate Sunday school.

Farmers' and labourers' children all come together to the school; in fact the distinction of farmers and labourers is very slight. Farms are worked almost

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entirely by hired servants living in the house, who live and eat with their masters. When they marry they have to leave. A labourer's child has indeed a better chance of education than a farmer's; a farmer's child is sent out to do light work as soon as ever he is able; a farmer finds it an economy in paying for labour, and so will rather employ his own boy than a labourer's. Labourers living in the house will get their 16*l.* or 17*l.* a year, and many of them put it by, and in time marry and take a farm of their own. There is one man in this farm (he was lodging in Mr. Pugh's farm) who is worth 200*l.* He lives here and is fed, so has no expenses but his clothes, which the interest of the money is ample to pay for; in due time he will set up a farm. He is now 35 years of age. If a labourer marries he leaves the farm and takes a cottage; then he can earn 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and is fed on the farm. No women go out to work; there is no work for them, the farm servants will milk the few cows that are kept.

The attendance at Cwmdauddwr school is very good in the winter; in the spring they go away very much, at the potato-setting time, and stay away till after the potato-picking; the harvest coming in the meantime. In the hills on the contrary, the case is different; and the bad weather will often keep the children from coming long distances to school in the winter. Up there too there is another employment that keeps them much away; a farmer will plant a little plot of ground in wheat without fencing it, and keep his little boys and girls at home to keep the cattle off it. Has started a night school this year, and it is going on fairly; but cannot get the boys he wants; it is chiefly boys about 12 to 15 who come, and very right they should keep up what they have learnt, but he wants to get some about 20 to 25 who have had little or no schooling before; has one or two of that age or more; the man employed by Mr. Pugh, mentioned above, comes.

Mr. Pugh farms about 90 acres, just enough corn for the house, and the rest grazing; his labourers are three men living in the house, besides whom he has a shepherd, 5 or 6 miles off on the hills, and a flock of sheep; he depends entirely on his stock, and would be a fair sample of the farmers of this neighbourhood; there not two or three who farm 300 acres. Right up in the hills there are some who would grow no corn at all; have nothing but pasture. Those who have rights may run their sheep on the common, but there are certain conventional boundaries which they do not trespass on. There are shepherds up there who undertake the charge of sheep belonging to people in the valley; one man, Powell by name, and his three sons shepherd some 6,000 sheep. Another system is that the sheep belong to the landlord, who lets out perhaps 1,000 sheep to his tenant, and receives 5 per cent. on each, besides the rent; if the tenant goes, he pays 15*s.* for each sheep short of the number. In the summer cattle are sent up "on tack," that is, let out to be pastured; and in the winter a good many sheep are also sent down from the hills "on tack," herbage being scarce.

The Cefn, a deep valley just short of Nant-Gwyllt, is the boundary of the Welsh and English languages; thinks that it is owing to so many marrying Cardiganshire girls that the Welsh language is kept up there; they come in as farm servants and marry in Radnorshire. But there are many cases of parents hardly knowing anything but Welsh, and their children all knowing hardly anything but English. English is taught in the schools. The people have no clinging to their own old language, and seem to think English of more use to the children. At Nant-Gwyllt preaches and reads the service alternately in English and Welsh; at Cwmdauddwr, found when he came that one lesson was always read in Welsh, but as it was so little, thought he might as well drop it. Has to preach five sermons for which a small endowment has been left; they were all preached in Welsh formerly, and that he has kept up; but only 20 or 30 old people come.

On the Register in Cwmdauddwr schools:—

Summer.

	Boys.			Girls.		
	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Total.	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Total.
Cwmdauddwr - -	30	13	43 } 68	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	15	10	25 }		12	32

Winter.

Cwmdauddwr - -	31	14	45 }	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	10	15	25 } 81	14	16	30 } 39
Wye Valley - -	3	8	11 }	3	6	9 }

In average attendance:—

Summer.

Cwmdauddwr - -	20	10	30 } 55	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	15	10	25 }	14	8	22

Winter.

Cwmdauddwr - -	20	11	31 }	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	8	14	22 } 55	10	15	25 } 34
Wye Valley - -	3	7	10 }	3	6	9 }

Mr. Williams puts down about six boys and six girls as neither at school nor at work.

Night school open 16 weeks, from November to February, two hours a night, three nights per week; under 12, 2; above 12, 16; total 18. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and scripture taught. The difficulties in maintaining an efficient evening school are the "want of efficient teachers," in this case the whole instruction is given. Also the distance; this school being at one extremity of a large parish is practically valueless to three-fourths of the people.

21. *Edward Lewis*, occupier. — Farms generally small; hardly one 200 acres, all open, none enclosed. Have the right of running our sheep on the common; every rate-payer has undisturbed right of common. Should prefer it enclosed, as I have little of it. My farm does not adjoin. Live close to Rhayadr. Few sheep, and they graze six miles off; some have 2,000.

Farm chiefly pasture and meadow; river Elan runs through. Employ a couple of men, a servant maid, and my own family. My children go to school down near here; gave them what I had myself; read and write, and arithmetic. Give one man 14*l.* and the other 15*l.*; if get an extra man cost 2*s.* and food. Men very well off. Never work a woman except in harvest; gets 1*s.* a day.

Employ a shepherd on hills, who a good cottage; cottage belongs to my landlord; has a garden and two cows. Landlord has built some cotages up there, and there are few houses up there. I give him 5*l.* for shepherding mine; shepherds for other people; perhaps gets 30*l.* a year. There are two young men, brothers, both single, in fact small farmers themselves. There are no children up there hardly to come to school, such as there are the small farmers send down here to school.

22. Cottages in Cwmdauddwr.

1. Inhabited by a man and his sister; only pays 1*s.* a week; built of stone and thatched; roof open all the way along to the thatch and rafters; floor of hard earth; large open fire-place, old fashioned with a grate lately put in; only this one storey divided into two rooms by a partition of wood across; has been lately repaired, till then the water used to come in through the roof, now it comes in through the chimney only.

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2. Next door, an old woman with her son and a young child. Is built of stone with a new slate roof, the inside plastered, but going right up to the angle of the roof; it is divided in two by a partition about eight feet high, which makes a second room. Floor and fire-place like in the preceding.

3. Built of stone and thatch, had only one room, but there was only one man living in it. Most wretched hovel.

4. Half of this cottage was built of wood, but the half in which the family lived of stone; two storeys high, but the upper storey only ascended by a ladder, and consisting of a big low loft open to the thatched roof. There was a second room downstairs, which is built of wood, and seems to be only a turf store, out of it the staircase leads. In this hovel live seven people, a man and wife and five children, and pay a rent of 5*l*.

5. A row of cottages, of which two were built of wood, the other two of stone; slate roof; only contain one room above and one below. A manure heap at the corner of the row, and pigs running about the mud in front of the house, as in Ireland.

Kington Union.

23. Meeting of Gentlemen present at Board of Guardians, December 4, 1868. Present, William Holland Baylis, owner, Trewern; John Stevens, farmer, Walton; Evan Powell Wellson, Gladestry, owner and occupier.

Mr. Baylis says boys' labour is not carried to any extent that requires interference. Might begin at 9 or 10. Require them either to go to school or work on my estate, and in our parish of Gladestry, generally. Only a woman's school here. The boys go perhaps rather earlier than would be the general rule in the district. Education is very much neglected. Mr. Baylis has had many men who could not read or write. They don't like to pay the money, it is 2*d*. for a child in Gladestry, but the distance is a more important reason. In this district some labourers live in the house, some in cottages; the waggoners will generally live in the house. In a stock-farm Mr. Wellson thinks it is more necessary they should live in the farm, so as to be up at all hours to look after the stock.

Upon the hills work is done by the piece; down below pay wages regularly all the year round. Mr. Wellson calculates that his men cannot have less than 12*s*. or 13*s*. a week; he gives them in money 9*s*. and a cottage, which is 1*s*. 6*d*., besides other privileges; potato-ground, run of a pig, and food in harvest. Mr. Baylis calculates that as rather below the average.

Hardly any women will work out at all, they have got so lazy now, they think when they marry that their husbands are to support them. Many men have said how much better off they are when their wives work out. The girls are a very good set of working girls; will work very well at milking or any thing about the farm when in service, and often put by a little money. Mr. Baylis mentioned a case of a girl who put by 30*l*., then married a boy, and thought she was to live in idleness, and the money was soon spent and the boy out of work. Mr. Wellson said a girl in his service had put by 40*l*. It is when they marry that they get unthrifty and will do nothing at all. The men, on the other hand, are a good hard-working set. There was a woman the other day out in harvest who declined even to boil Mr. Wellson a cup of tea. Such few women as do go out are the older ones; none of the younger will; one or two will come out to work among the turnips. Mr. Wellson gives 8*d*. a day and tea. The turnip hoeing is let to a man, but he will take out a boy, of 10 or 11 sometimes, to single with him; knows no instance of his taking his wife out.

Mr. Stevens remarked that there is a good deal of bird-keeping about here; has to get a boy of about 11; very often wants a boy in every field, crows are much increasing in number. Sometimes two men with adjacent fields will combine to hire a boy; he gets 6*d*. a day. Mr. Baylis considers it succeeds just as well to kill a crow or two and hang him up.

The tillage in the district is rather diminishing, farmers find stock pay so much better. Mr. Mynors and Mr. Edwards, in Old Radnor, have done a great deal in the way of laying down grass; this causes a great diminution in the demand for labour. The gentlemen did not seem to approve of the new system of putting two or three farms into one. Mr. Wellson believed that under the old system the farming was often better.

It is the general custom to let cottages with the farm. Mr. Baylis calculates it costs him, with his own timber and stone, 200*l*. to put up a cottage; generally gives two bed-rooms. Always builds the cottages separately; does not like putting them in pairs or in threes; the people are sure not to agree. Mr. Wellson disapproves of the system people have now of spending so much on their cottages. A farmer cannot charge them to his men at more than 1*s*. 6*d*. a week, and very often so much is added to the farm rent on account of good cottages that it makes a difficulty in the letting of it.

Mr. Stevens remarked that schools are very plentiful about Old Radnor; there is a school there, and Mrs. Edwards, close to Walton, also keeps another, at which there are often 60 children, and there is another at Evenjob; but it is the only part of the Welsh district of the union that is well off.

Borough of Radnor.

Population of Old Radnor, 1,401; acreage, 10,069.

Population of New Radnor, 490; acreage, 2,025, excluding sheep-walks.

24. *Rev. H. F. Mogridge*, vicar of Old Radnor.—Have a very good school here, and few boys go out to work before 12 or 13; in fact the farmers complain they cannot get enough boys. The children of some of the smaller farmers come to the school, but as a rule the farmers are richer men than on the other side of the forest. This dip which comprises Radnor forest is very good land. The women will not work out here, as they do in Herefordshire; the wages are a little higher, and the men get certain privileges, and as a rule are well off.

25. *Rev. J. James*, minister, New Radnor.—"Very few boys are employed in agriculture in this parish but the few who are thus employed are from 10 to 13 years of age, and in seed-time and harvest-times of the year they are thus engaged. Few and very few women; seven or eight perhaps are employed to pick stones, weed the grain, and make hay. To the best of my knowledge no girls." No restriction necessary. They go to work a distance of one to two miles.

"One school is here under the government of the Church of England, and one private school, where a few infants are taught to read by a female; on the whole the attendance is tolerably well, except in the harvest season. I know of no cause except early labour or neglect for their non-attendance.

"The cottages are on the whole in good condition, and sufficient for the labour required. They are conveniently situate, not over crowded, well supplied with water, and well ventilated. No evil results ever come under my notice from any defect in the cottages. All have good gardens, and some allotments of land, also conveniently situated for their use."

26. *Mr. Turner*, bailiff to Sir Gilbert Lewis, Harpton Court.—Generally farmers expect children to turn out about 12. Was overseer five years, and used to put pauper children out to farmers at about 12; they get at beginning 6*d*. to 8*d*. a day.

Women would hardly work out here; every woman works out in Herefordshire, but labourers here are a little better off; down there a man would only get 9*s*.; but here we pay on the estate 1*s*. and a cottage; a farmer would give 9*s*. to 10*s*. and a cottage. Give cyder here in summer, and they get firing and potato ground here, and cottage rent is cheaper; won't get one in Hereford under 4*l*.; here to be let at 1*s*. a week. Some of the cottagers hold of Sir G. Lewis, some of

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the farmers. Mr. Edwards has a farm of Sir G. Lewis, 500 or 600 acres, and keeps a cow for each labourer; they stay with him years and years.

A great many farmers have servants living in the house and going out to work for them, even among the larger farmers. A farmer farming, say, 300 acres, would have, perhaps, four men living in the house and four out, the four living in the house would receive from 12*l.* to 16*l.* a year and their victuals. Poorer farmers would have their men feeding with them. The farms vary much in size; those up on the hill, which are very small, would be worked only by the man and his family.

The people live chiefly on bread; they get bread pretty cheap; breakfast on bread and butter and tea. If they go out to work and do not come back to dinner they take bread and cheese with them, and have their bit of bacon at supper, but if they come home to dinner they have their bacon then. They have to buy the cheese, there is none made here. They all keep a pig, they buy him small in January for perhaps 1*l.*, then all through the summer he picks up what he can get; they fat him on barley for killing, and kill him in the winter; sometimes he will weigh 20 to 25 stone. The pork is the only meat they get; they generally eat the pig, unless there is illness, and then, perhaps, a little money being wanted they will sell the hams.

The women who go out to work have generally something wrong at home; they are widows, or their husband is a lazy or drunken fellow; one case of a woman of bad character, who would not get other employment. Men's wages vary much; a good working man will, of course, get better wages: older men not so much.

27. *Mr. Shewell*, grocer, New Radnor.—The children of the small farmers up on the hills go out to work almost as soon as they are old enough to do anything; the consequence is that many of them get little or no schooling at all. The supply of schools is very bad; at the little parish up here, Llanvihangel, there is only a school kept by an old man two days in a week; at other times he is a clock-maker; he gets an attendance of about 18. At Old Radnor is a school with an endowment from a farm between that place and Gladestry; it formerly stood on the farm, and the Gladestry people did not like having it moved. There is another school at Gladestry.

Would say that Gladestry is almost the only parish where women work at all; a few work, perhaps, in Radnor. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Gravenor would employ a woman stone picking and weeding, but they do not go out in any number; it is not the custom here, and yet wages are very low, varying from 8*s.* to 10*s.*, and having to find a cottage. It is very difficult to understand how they get on. The women do, perhaps, a little knitting; that is very common about here; at a stretch a woman will knit two pairs of stockings in a week; she gets 1*s.* 3*d.* a pair, the farmer finds the material; but there is little other work done by them. Farmers will generally let them have a bit of ground for their potatoes; the greater part keep a pig, which is the only meat they have.

The farmers on the hills themselves live very hard. Very few of them ever see fresh meat at all; they eat bacon and bread; bread is very cheap, and potatoes; they all live with their labourers, and the labourers are better off than some of them. The cottages in the district are better than you will generally find. There are many large landowners who keep their cottages in repair.

28. *Mr. Hughes*, farmer, The Yatt, Old Radnor.—Farms 90 acres, of which nearly half would be arable, and has two servants living in the house, who do all the work. If he wants another hand in summer perhaps he gets one of the lime burners to come out. One of them will often borrow his team in the winter, saying, if he will lend it, they will do a day's work for him in the summer. Never hardly gets a woman out, they will not come. His own men do the work among the turnips.

29. *N.B.*, [name not given,] schoolmaster, Old Radnor.—Has some boys up to 17; generally contrives to keep them up to 13; would say the average age of boys in school is 12 or 13; has fewer in summer than winter; some few go away perhaps to take a job for a farmer.

No, not a very good attendance to-day, owing to the weather. Some of them have long distances to come. None of the big ones here to-day.

29. Notes on cottages near New Radnor.

In the first (Mrs. Evans's) were two rooms downstairs, the second nearly as big as the kitchen. Mrs. Evans' husband is a waggoner. He gets 8*s.* a week wages, and his victuals in harvest. Besides this he has certain advantages, potato-ground and milk: not cottage; pays rent 4*l.* Does not go out to work herself; boy of 11 went out to live at a farmhouse Had a capital pig in the sty close by fatting. In a cottage semi-detached from the above lives Mrs. Price: husband is a cowman, and has to work on Sunday Gets 10*s.* a week; out of it has to pay 4*l.* for cottage annually; has two small children; never goes out to work. Gets milk when there is plenty, all the summer for instance.

Mrs. Evans' in a cottage upon the hill. Husband gets 9*s.* in the winter, in the summer 12*s.* to 15*s.*; he is a lime burner. Never goes out to work; very few women do; some do. Mrs. Rogers goes pulling turnips, and Mrs. Griffiths and her little girl go out too. Don't know of any one else. Mrs. Griffiths went breaking stones.

All these cottages are built of stone and slate. Came to one on the hill, poor looking and thatched, but apparently roomy; lot of little children playing round it; an Irish family named Curran. Asked why not at school; mother is not at home to-day, and taking care of little ones. Went to school yesterday; won't go to-morrow, it's Saturday; will go on Monday. Visited a wretched cottage up on the hill; old woman and her husband and two illegitimate grandchildren living in it. Thatch; consists of two rooms, but the roof of one is made into a loft, all with sloping roof, and bare thatch, and no window; entered by a ladder from the other and higher room to which it is open; for this pay 3*l.* a year.

30. *Mrs. Price* (Harpton).—Husband gets 8*s.* a week, and has to find his cottage; he gets no advantages, except potato-setting. Gets his victuals besides in harvest. Has to pay rent for the cottage 3*l.* a year. Used to go out to work a little herself, but does not now; went out haymaking. Is not strong enough for it now. Little boy went to service at 9, younger than most of them do it here. Went for his victuals, and got nothing else for 4 or 5 years. Lived with the farmer; went first to do a bit of stone-picking, but farmer found him so useful he kept him on. Husband works for Mr. Lloyd.

PARISH OF GLADESTRY.

Population, 350; Acreage, 3,190, excluding sheep-walks. Cultivation mixed, but pasture predominates, especially if the hill or common lands are taken into consideration.

31. *Wm. Holland Baylis, Esq.*, M.R.C.S., Gwern-dwfnant.—"Boys are comparatively seldom employed, excepting as indoor farm servants; when employed from 10 or 12 years upwards indoors, all the year round at any farm work of which they are capable; out of doors or daily at such seasons as suitable work can be provided for them. Girls are employed only as indoor farm servants, commencing at from 12 to 14. In this district generally single women are domestic servants or needle women; when married they for the most part become too indolent to work, even in those cases where health and circumstances favor their so doing.

"In our own case all the workpeople reside on the property, suitable cottages having been erected for their accommodation, so that in no instance does the distance exceed a mile, one woman excepted, who

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walks from the village daily about one mile. Extra workmen when required might also have a mile or less to walk. Women and boys work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer; in winter from 8 a.m. to sunset.

"Generally speaking the cottages are tolerable in condition and situation. In some instances there is a want of decency and cleanliness caused by the absence of privies; others again are unfortunately situated for an accessible supply of water, especially during the summer months; but the latter objection is exceptional; this being a sparsely populated district, the cottages are not usually overcrowded. Most have gardens attached; in addition it is the universal custom to allow each labourer a certain quantity of land in the field for the planting of potatoes.

"With regard to education, I believe that were there a good free school so situated as to embrace districts, —parishes not unfrequently being altogether too large and straggling for any school to be available to all the parishioners,—and, in addition, the families of the labourers visited by the clergyman, and induced by admonition and encouragement to send the younger children to school, that the present ignorance would, in course of time, disappear, and as a consequence, there would be less immorality. In the rural districts unfortunately, with rare exceptions, the clergy trouble themselves very little about the moral or material welfare of the poor.

"The property which I occupy is situated in three parishes. In 'Llanfihangel Nantmellan' there is no school of any kind; in 'Old Radnor' the school is too far removed to be of any benefit to this part of the parish; in 'Gladestry' there is a school kept by a mistress. Many of the labourers in this neighbourhood can neither read nor write. Early labour is no hindrance to the attendance of children at school with us. A good free school is needed, and probably means for either compelling or inducing attendance in some cases."

32. *T. L. Wishlade*, relieving officer, Radnor district. —District consists chiefly of sheep farms. Not so much work as in Herefordshire for women; they would go out to sow turnips in the two Radnors, and do a little topping and tailing; also in Gladestry. Occasionally they go. But men would do most of the work. Perhaps a man would go out and take his boys to single while he hoes; very seldom takes his girls. Never knew of a case of a wife going with her husband. Women would get 8*d.* a day.

A farm labourer would get 9*s.* or 10*s.* in money. Cottage rent free, and potato ground in most cases. In some cases, not often, farmers allow run of a pig in the stubbles after the grain has been gathered. Some of the cottagers keep poultry. Women knit in Llandegley, Glascwm, chiefly some of the old women. Where a large family, often has not time. Sometimes a wife will add a good deal of money in harvest and hay-making. Sometimes go to master's house to work. A good many labourers live in the house. Most of the farms have cottages. Not many on the sheep farms. A great many of the farmers on the hills are better off than those below, but enclosure makes them not so well off as they used to be. They put by a lot of money and live very hard. But some very poor. Can hardly make two ends meet. They eat a good deal of bacon; sometimes one of their own sheep. Bake their own bread. Some live in wretched places. Ovens close to fire-place. Some bake the bread over the fire in an iron pot, and very nice bread. Burn a quantity of peat, but not so much as formerly. Railway brings coal.

KNIGHTON UNION.

33*a*. Meeting of the board of guardians, Nov. 25. Rev. A. Thomas, vicar of Beguildy, chairman, in the chair. Present also, Messrs. Tudge, V.C., Heyope; Thomas, Bleddfa; Kinsey, Llanbister, &c.

Children begin farm-work at 14. Begin by looking after cattle, assist waggoner, clean shoes, and sometimes assist in harvest. No leading horses with plough. In upper part all live in the house. No gang system. Would also live in the large farms. Many of the men would have a cottage and so much money. Boys hired by the year. If a small farm would live with the family. Small farms everywhere.

Chiefly a grazing country. Little corn grown except for export, only for use, and for cattle. A good deal of the land only produces oats.

Farmers depend on stock. Fair sprinkling of cattle everywhere. On a farm with 200 sheep would be 25 to 30 cattle. Could have 50 or 60 down the valley, and the same number of sheep. No dairy of any account. Most farmers buy cheese; may make a little butter. All large farmers buy cheese. Give milk all to stock. More butter from the higher parishes sold.

Mr. Tudge said it is a very small parish where you don't find a school or two, and where not a good many private. The chairman said that this board pays for the education of all destitute and pauper children, and all orphans, if no means of their own, and also of labourers' family if very large.

Beguildy has only private schools. Most of the children at one or other. Would say that most would be at one or other. It is their own fault if they don't go. Mr. Tudge said, some have long distances to send.

Have a National school in Heyope, and very good, and a private school kept by Miss Cook.

There is now school-room at Llanbister, another on the border in Llandewi, which gets a many from Llanbister. Guardians would expect some that do not go at all. Chairman says, that many who live close as bad as those who live far.

Chairman says, not women employed to any extent in Beguildy; very few in harvest; and at Llanbister very few. Mr. Tudge says, that you can't get women.

In Bleddfa Mr. Thomas says, labourers' wives will pull and cut turnips. Perhaps one or two women or girls will pick stones, or a girl who has been unfortunate. Women don't do it up in the higher parishes. In Bleddfa are very large farms, and it is more like a Herefordshire parish.

At Llanbister the cottages are much better than what they were. Chairman says, a good many squatters. Freeholds on the hills. Built on the hill and paid for to the Woods and Forests. After built a short time Woods and Forests come down on them. The Crown is lord of the manor. Some clod walls and thatch, and mostly only ground-floor. Most of rest belong to landlord.

In Bleddfa cottages are pretty fair. All belong to landowners. Two bedrooms, and some with three bedrooms. Some that have been farmhouses often divided into two. Nearly all new put up with three bedrooms.

Generally let to farmer with farms. Rent, where pay, 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*

Wages.—The chairman reckons his men get 12*s.* a week, 10*s.*, a cottage, three bushels potatoes, cyder.

At Bleddfa 9*s.*, cottage, cider, potato ground, run of a pig, house firing. Months victuals in corn harvest.

Boy in farm at 13 would begin at 4*l.* A good boy would get 12*l.* at 18. From Bleddfa has a boy under 20; gets 14*l.*; teamster; good as any man.

PARISH OF LLANBADARN FYNYDD.

Population, 609.

33*a*. *George Augustus Haig, Esq.*, Pen-Ithon.— "Owner of 2,700 acres and occupier of 1,050 acres.

"The cultivation is chiefly pastoral, perhaps 10 per cent. in crop; but my own farm is about 40 per cent. under crop, and next year will have 65 or 70 per cent. No children are employed under 10 years old, and very few so young, usually 11, or 12, or 13, or upwards. Occupied chiefly weeding turnips and carrots and mangold during the winter. Wages, according to age, from 8*d.* per day to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. A boy of 15 will get 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, a boy of 12 or 13 perhaps 1*s.*

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"Girls are very seldom employed until they are 16 or 17. At that age they are employed in turnip-weeding and planting, and gathering potatoes, and binding corn in harvest; they get the wages of a woman, 1*s.* a day. Women, both married and single, are employed in the same occupations as those named above; they get 1*s.* a day. I employ a great many, sometimes 30 women and children; many of them live on my own farm in the cottages, others walk 1 or 1½ or 2 miles to their work, and return the same distance at night. The employment is not constant, it is intermittent and depends on weather. On a fine day a great many will turn out, on a wet day very few or none at all. They work from 6 to 6, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, leaving 10½ hours for work.

"I think it would be a great hardship to restrict labour on land. It would not injure the farmer or the landowner, it would only injure the labouring classes. The occupation is healthy, and liked by those engaged in it. I can get plenty of women for field work at 1*s.* a day, but the *same women object to work in my laundry at* 1*s.* 6*d. per day*, showing plainly that they consider the occupation a pleasant one, and I consider this indicates whether it is good or not for their children.

"There is no school in the parish. *Occasional* winter schools are opened for a few months. I am building a school near to my house, which will be opened shortly, but will only be for young children from 5 to 10 years old. If the children are not taught between those ages it is hopeless to attempt to teach them."

Have 10 cottages on the *home farm*, each three rooms. A man and wife with three or four *young* children get these at 1*s.* a week. If a man has more children or older children he has to take *two cottages* (they both enter from one *porch*), and takes in a lodger, who pays 1*s.* a week, and so in reality pays the rent of the second cottage. No cottages have gardens, and the people put no value on a *garden*. There are plenty of "natural children," but I think the number is diminishing and morals are improving. At same time a woman who has two or three natural children, *provided for at* 2*s.* 6*d. per week*, is looked upon as a fortune, and very soon finds a husband, the husband very seldom being the father of *any* of the children.

Water.—In country places we never supply water to cottages or even to farms in such a district as this; they carry water from the nearest brook or spring; there are plenty of them all about.

I know of no cottages which have gardens. There are labourers' *farms*, of, say, 6 or 8, or 10 or 15 acres these men work often for a farmer as a regular day-labourer, and the wife manages one or two cows and a few sheep. Gardens are not valued. These small farms let quickly enough at 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year, but *they will not pay the landlord.* The house and byre and fencing cost at least 100*l.*, and the repairs of the building and materials for repair of the fences will cost on the average 3*l.* a year, being from 3*l.* to 5*l.* as the return for an outlay of 100*l.* and 8 to 12 acres of land. On cottages we expect no adequate return; they are part of the farm buildings as it were, and must be provided. *The cottage farms would not yield a landlord* 1½ *per cent.*

Parish of Llanbister.

Population, 1,045.

34. *Evan Kinsey*, occupier.—Farms about 240 acres; pretty large for the parish; would not plough above 40 acres, all the rest pasture. No pasture very good, a good deal on the hill. Should have 30 cattle and 250 to 300 sheep, besides a team of horses. Milks six cows.

Employ about five men, all live in the house, the custom in the parish, very rare to have a workman living in a cottage; when marry go away. Most of the married men become job men. Three grown-up men and two strong boys; they feed with us; youngest about 14, 16, and 18, and two over 20; keep them in good order; a deal in the ruling of the house, but it is a great failing their getting with the servant girls. Have farmed 23 years and never had a case. In some instances the servant comes back; if she is a good servant she does. There's too many go to the workhouse here; but they would rather starve than go there; think it as bad as going to prison.

Cannot get women for swedes; servant boys have to do it, and sometimes let it out to job men; but their wives won't work, that is the worst of it with us; they are a deal better about Knighton.

35. *Abraham Hamer*, overseer, Llanbister.—Very few women go out, only in parish of Llanbadarn-fynydd; about eight or ten women employed on one estate; Squire Haigh keeps about three or four farms in hand.

Some children employed, perhaps a few of 13 or 14, doing same work as women, hoeing turnips, carrots, swedes; girls go with their mothers, and when a little older go out to service.

In summer months and spring women go out, and not in bad weather. Hardly any in other parishes, except perhaps a woman by chance.

Boys go to service at 12 or 13; any work farmer puts them at; out-door work chiefly; no earlier work. Nearly all labourers live in farmhouses; farmers all keep children to work. Very apt to begin earlier than labourers; begin minding sheep when very little. A farm labourer living in the house would live with farmer, get food, and perhaps 1*s.* a day. Small farmers in the hilly part; the largest perhaps 300 acres, but most sheep walks, perhaps only 20 acres under tillage. In Llananuo-Llanbister a good deal of common.

In Llangunllo and Bleddfa much larger farms; a small valley between the hills. One farm in Bleddfa up to 500 acres, some a little smaller; out of that about 100 would be ploughed, and a deal of meadow, and the rest sheep walk. Keep cattle all through the district, sheep and horses; breed cattle. Nearly every farm has some dairy.

Very poor cottages generally; some built with clod and covered with straw; would be some better; not above two rooms in some of them. Llananuo and Llanbister would be worst, and a part of Llanbadarn. Squire Haigh has built four or five new cottages, stone and slate; but not many more new, except three or four brick, in parish of Llangunllo. Chiefly belong to landowner. Bad ones would let for 2*l.*; a new one would be 4*l.* or 5*l.*

Very few outdoor men employed; chiefly job work, draining, &c. Pretty well off generally, but some poor families. Would have for dinner a little bread and potatoes, and perhaps a bit of bacon or a little milk. Labourers themselves would drink tea; only get cider and beer in Bleddfa and Llangunllo in summer months. In Bleddfa there are not so many in farms; live in cottages on farms, and get 9*s.* a week, cottage, potato ground, with manure from the farm enough to set three or four bushels of potatoes. It and Llangunllo more like Hereford parishes; so too going down to Presteign.

Up the farther parishes rarely get any beer or cider, except from a public-house; very little drunkenness. They prefer tea or coffee. They find it the cheapest meal they can get. Very apt to keep a pig; now and then one or two keep a cow; some of them get three or four acres; in upper parishes some small freeholders on the common. Get a little potatoes and oats, and are rather better off than the others; but are working nearly all their time by the day, except a day or two now and then on their own ground. A very poor barren country; women and children would do a little work on the farm.

Before Squire Haigh came up were often lots of people out of employment, but he gives lots of work now in the upper parishes. No crow-keeping; rather cold for birds, and they seem to keep away.

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PARISH OF BLEDDFA.

36. *Mr. Thomas*, occupier.—Tillage of farm 200 acres; all farm between 500 and 600 acres, and a good bit of hill land; break up some of it fresh, very poor land. A good deal gorse and too steep. Meadows and pasture would be about 300 acres; at the bottom very good about 50 or 60.

Employ about 10 men regular. Three waggoners and a shepherd, work 12 hours. Will average 20 in employ. Have four in the house; and have sons that work regular with the men. Certain number of job men; get fencing by measure, and let out swedes and turnips to job men, and cutting corn. Obliged to employ hand labour for cutting; too hilly; cut hay with machine. Employ one boy of 12, a workhouse boy, at 6*d.* a day; works about the farm, leads the horse between rows and cocks of hay when hauling. Now he is helping to cart turnips with my son. Not much bird-keeping; get a boy now and then; some do, some don't; workman's boy. Would not do it under 10. No good under. Give him 6*d.* a day.

Let out the swedes to women, who bring their children; they do it by measure, 1¼*d.* a row 100 yards long. Not at it regular; don't come early in morning. One workman's wife with two boys, lumps of boys who ought to be in service, got 5*l.* for pulling turnips, perhaps a month. All of the labourers' wives as have their hands free glad to come out. Would not bring a child out under 10. In our country the labourers indulge children too much. Don't send them to service early enough.

A good few about me let out their swedes the old way; pull a load and take it home, and then frost comes and lose the rest. Biggest farms in my parish of any.

Cottages let by landlord to me with the farms. I have seven. In pretty fair repair. Tenant finds thatch, if thatched, but landlord slate for the slated ones. Landlord pays for repair. Lord Bateman in Herefordshire lets them straight to the labourer, where my second son has a farm. Like that system best, because many of the lower class slovenly, knock a cottage about; when taken from the owner direct, he looks to them. Plenty on my farm for what I want.

Waggoner 10*s.* a week, house and garden, month's victuals in harvest, and dinner when out with team. 4*s.* extra in hay; potato and three bushels of cider barley for pig; firing, wood, and coal. Other men 9*s.* given too. Breed stock largely.

PARISH OF HEYHOPE.

Population, 283.

37. *Mr. Tudge*, occupier, Vice-chairman of Board of Guardians.—Find it better to have men on farms in cottages; cannot manage servants in house latterly, and by having them out get more labour in the day. Men would have to live at the villages Knudass, Llangunllo, &c., if no cottages on the farms. Most men farm their own land, and find it a saving to have men living on it instead of walking a distance. Have farmed 300 acres for 20 years, have three cottages on it; build them cheap as have stone and timber on land. Only hire a mason and carpenter, and buy slate. Consider thatching dearer than slate; wants so much repair, especially if a lot of rats about it.

Gives men 10*s.* a week (waggoner, 10*s.* 6*d.*) cottage, potato ground, run of a pig. Reckons as worth about 13*s.* a week.

PARISH OF LLANGUNLLO.

38. *Mr. Weyman*, occupier.—Farms 340 acres, of which 80 or 90 acres in tillage; rest all pasture and woods. Have some meadow, and are enclosing all the hill land. Father has two farms, and I have one under Mr. Green Price, in Knighton parish; live in Llangunllo.

Have four workmen out, two in the house. Let mowing, reaping, &c. to job men, and in fact employ two more all the year round. Can generally get men. Pay them by the piece.

Four workmen live in cottages on the farm. Waggoner gets 10*s.*, other men 9*s.* and cottage, beer,—they like beer better than cider,—potato ground,&c. About the general thing in the parish and in Llangunllo. Cottages let with the farm; have four, which is all wanted. One man's wife perhaps would come out, but all last summer could not get one out; they don't like out-door work, get lots of other work.

Sometimes employ a boy of 11 to 13 to scare birds in wheat-sowing at 6*d.* a day; in general a workman's boy; if he has not one, must shoot or do as we can. When boy comes to that age generally gets a boy into the farm; down in Herefordshire would plough with a boy; not wanted here as plough double.

PRESTEIGN UNION.

39. Extract from circular filled up by Henry Martin Jones, Esq., Clerk to the Union.

Boys "from 11 to 12 years of age are generally "put into the houses of farmers. The girls are only "employed as household servants; girls are never "put as out-door workers. Women as a rule in this "district work in the fields when there is work for "them to do."

Distance from work, "uncertain, from a quarter of "a mile to two miles."

Hours of work, "from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. as a rule: "in winter months, from daylight to dusk."

"I think no limit need be adopted 'to women or children's work.' Children are never as a rule put to work until they have been schooled and are able.

"There are excellent ragged, British, and National schools in this place which are generally taken advantage of by the labouring classes."

"The cottages as a rule are good, and as conveniently situate as possible; as a rule they are not overcrowded, but this of course depends on the number of the families. Generally all have good gardens; no allotments."

BUILTH UNION.

40. *Mr. Price*, Maesgwyn, Disserth (owner), Chairman of the Builth Board of Guardians.—Builth Union contains 10 parishes entirely Welsh. Mr. Price considers Radnor Forest, Clyro Hills, and the Begws the boundary of the English and Welsh farming; below those hills you will find the same farming as in Herefordshire. On this side it is the Welsh system of farming; very little land is in corn, because we find raising stock pay better. Farms 600 acres, all his own, and of this would have perhaps 10 acres in wheat, the same in barley, the same in oats, and perhaps a few acres in roots; grows only enough wheat and milks enough cows to supply the farm; some of the small farmers about would make a little butter to sell in Howey or Llandrindod, but it is the exception; also there are hardly any freeholders about, and the present system is to amalgamate small farms into large. Mr. Price has three men in his employ, all living in the house; it is not for want of cottages for he has three on his farm; one of these is let to a carpenter, and he is quite willing to let them to men who work for other farmers. The wages of in-door servants has increased enormously. The man you gave 10*l.* to formerly now expects 20*l.* If he marries it is a bad thing for him. He either has to take one of my cottages or go elsewhere. In busy times have to get extra hands, who expect 2*s.* a day and sometimes their victuals. Have had as many as 12 dining in here. They have just the food we have, and the in-door servants the same all the year round. Beef and bacon. There is no scarcity of male labour. The fact is in harvest there are not so many hands wanted here, and a carpenter or anybody will come out for a few days. We help one another too. Often lend a team; and in the case of small farmers they will often go out together and get in the harvest on one farm first, and then off to the next. It is a system very hard for English people to understand, but the labourers here are not many, and what there

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are as well off as many of the farmers. We often stop and have a chat with them. Many of the people are half farmers half labourers. Men, for instance, who pay 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year rent will work a day or two on their farm and the rest of the week at 2*s.* a day for some larger farmer. None ever need be out of work. If there is not farm work to be done there is always work on the roads or a bit of fencing. It is the children of the small farmers who get the least education. They are about with their parents at 5 or 6. And what are you to do about that? A parent won't overwork his child, and they get some schooling when there is not work going on the farm. Ours is a mixed school. It has been built four years, and the children certainly come very well. Hardly know what they did before it was built. Boys and girls learn together, and children of all denominations come. Farmers' children go too and learn with the labourers' children, and if they want more schooling for them afterwards they have to send them to Hereford or somewhere. There is another school near Builth Road station. The parish is very large, about 6,000 acres.

We have no workhouse. The guardians have always voted against it on account of the expense of the establishment, and the requirements of Government in building one. But it is a great disadvantage in the way that we have no test of real poverty. In cases too of illegitimate births it is very difficult to manage. A sum has to be allowed to the mother or she has to be put out somewhere. It is one of the worst things in this county. Some women have three or four bastard children. Little orphans have to be put out, and, perhaps, 1*s.* paid to the person who takes them in. There are two in Llandrindod now. Widows receive relief. They cannot support themselves here unless they get a bit of washing. No work is done on the land by women; they are above it. The wages are so high they will not do it. Down on the Herefordshire side where a man gets, perhaps, only 9*s.* a week the case is different. If we have to pick stones or top and tail turnips we have to set our men to it. But we fortunately have little of the work to be done.

41. *Rev. Thomas Thomas*, Rector of Disserth, Glanhowey, near Llandrindod.—Population of parish, 521; acreage, 6,200. Cultivation mixed. "The cottages are not numerous in this parish, the occupants generally being small farmers. Those that exist are fairly good.

There are scarcely any children growing up insufficiently educated. One or two at most. Probably 20 neither at school nor at work."

APPROXIMATE NUMBER of Children of the agricultural labouring class in attendance at elementary schools in the parish of Disserth.

In Summer.

	Boys.			Girls.		
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Total.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Total.
On the register of some school.	18	22	42	23	29	56
In average attendance -	8	6	14	12	7	24

In winter nearly the same.

42. *Mr. James*, landlord of the Rock House Inn.—Has two farms, one in Llandrindod, and one in Penybont, the former 115 acres, the latter about 150. Has most arable land in the latter, but the best land is along the river near Llandrindod. Rich meadow. At this latter farm he depends for support of the hotel, and kills 100 lambs for it every year. His men live in cottages, which they find themselves. He employs four on the Llandrindod farm. The bailiff gets 14*s.* a week. Two live in the farmhouse. The other men get the same, but have to find cottages.

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